

Merry Christmas!

The Salvation Army distributes baskets to the poor, pretty girls indulge themselves in sweet charity, and golfers are remembered with new golf bags, clubs, stockings, shoes, and what not. But though the Christmas spirit fills the air, no one thinks to give the Green Committee a load of manure, some worm killer, or any other pleasant memento of the occasion. Not a soul thinks to give the greenkeeper or green-committeeman a call on the telephone even to express a belated appreciation of the work done during the season to provide pleasure for golfers. The poor outcasts may be likened to the waifs so frequently pictured as looking with wistful eyes at a window full of toys or cookies, but without a like sympathetic response; nothing for them, not even a pleasant word; rarely a kind thought. The golfer who gets from Santa Claus a gift that is useful or ornamental in the game continues to think that he surely would have had a four on No. 5 on that memorable day when he almost broke his previous record, had not the green committee left unfilled a hole originally made by an unreplaced divot.

There is nothing new in all this. Ishmael must have been on the green committee of his club. The hand of every man was against him. And in time his hand was against every man.

This time, or at least New Year's, is the season to reform. This is the time to speak kindly and appreciatively to the green-committeemen. It's the best present that can be given. The annual meeting of your club will be coming on soon; and then let the spirit pervade you. Then see that the committee is given a fair chance. Good greens without money, like bricks without straw, are impossibilities in the absence of miracles. Remember now, at the meeting of your club, and at all times, that the green-committeeman, who gives up his game to make it possible for you to play and enjoy golf, is at least entitled to a kind word. He has given more to you than you have given to him. And the least you can do is to call him up and say, "Merry Christmas! I was thinking of the good times I've had this year playing golf, and while I've cursed you day in and day out I now wish to say that I really appreciate all you've done or tried to do to keep our course in good condition. Merry Christmas!"

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Annual Meeting of the Green Section

The annual meeting of the Green Section will be held at Hotel Astor, New York City, January 4 and 5, 1924, in connection with the annual meeting of the United States Golf Association. A personnel of the Green Committee of the United States Golf Association for 1924 will be elected at the meeting, and such other business transacted as may properly come before the sessions. The officials will report on the progress of the work of the Green Section, and a number of committeemen and experts will present an instructive program, illustrated with lantern slides, covering in detail important problems of golf turf maintenance. Luncheon will be served on Friday. A cordial invitation is extended to all interested in these problems to attend the meeting, and a special invitation is extended to greenkeepers. The program is as follows: