

evidence of the first trace of these enemies. Irreparable damage is likely to result if heroic treatment is attempted when the trouble has reached an acute stage.

*Care of equipment.*—A neat and orderly place for keeping tools and equipment is indispensable for maintaining them in good condition. Cutting machines should be kept sharp and well oiled. A running inventory should be kept of all tools and machines. Constant inspection of all equipment is highly essential.

In general, the best preventive for weeds is good turf, and the best preventive for ill health in grass is good drainage,—drainage in the soil itself, drainage in contours, drainage on the turf, in the turf, under the turf, and surrounding the turf.

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### The Progress of Golf Architecture

Golf architecture involves far more than the laying out of a definite number of holes each of a virtually standardized length. That these lengths are standardized can hardly be questioned, even if the distances are only approximately equal and those decreed by what golfers think best. There is general agreement that the desirable total length of 18 holes should be between 6,000 and 6,500 yards. If one should judge from a large proportion of golf courses, the designer had no other end in view than that stated above, namely a course whose measurements approximate a standard. There is seldom any indication of originality, except of the freaky kind, and rarely any conception of landscape beauty. Apart from the relatively mathematical or mechanical features of golf course building, which any one can learn quickly, there lies the whole art, which will make or break the reputation of every golf architect. Only the sluggish mind of an easily satisfied public has blinded it to the hideousness of most of our golf courses. Sometimes the beauty of the surroundings helps to conceal the ugliness of the artificial work, though the lack of any harmony be only too obvious. Fortunately, perhaps, many architects make their artificial work concealed or half-concealed, such as blind bunkers. Otherwise its unloveliness would be too patent.

This may sound like the writing of one suffering a severe attack of indigestion. It is meant to be the expression of feeling of one who is saddened by the absence of landscape beauty in too much of the artificial constructions on golf courses. A sand bunker can be made a thing of beauty or a hideous gash. Fortunately many of the latter are built "blind." The artificial lines can be curves that fit in with those of the terrain, or they can be angular and jar every sense of harmony. After all, a golf architect worthy of the name must be an artist, painting his ideas on the face of Nature as his canvas. The painter retouches his work again and again. Too many architects make the mechanical plans and leave practically all else to the construction gang. Some indeed work on a cut-and-dried series of models, which are reproduced here, there and yonder regardless of the terrain. When you see one course built by such an architect, you can recognize at once every other course he has built. This is true not in the sense that one can learn to recognize a Corot or a Landseer, but true to actual mechanical details. There is merit in the idea that holes of proven reputation ought to be copied—especially if these replicas apply as to principles but not as to details. If however this idea is embalmed in a set of mechanical models, then there can

obviously be no progress as long as these are followed, neither for the architect himself nor for his art. To be blunt, such an architect is sacrificing his art to present commercial gain.

Perhaps the architect is not so much to blame as is the golfing public. As long as there is no criticism, he may well believe that he is producing meritorious results. A few courses built in recent years are examples of splendid landscape architecture. The influence of these will doubtless stimulate golfers to demand better work from the architects. To build artistic courses will require more of the architect's time than he takes at present. It can not be done, especially in its finishing stages, by a brief visit once a month or so. That is too much like a landscape artist hiring a journeyman painter to paint pictures for him. It can be done, of course, but the results are not inspiring.

Golf architects ought to be the leaders in promoting the progress of golf. They are not. Today many courses are being built by professional golf players that are as good as or better than those made by most professional architects. Except for a few notable exceptions in the profession, the term architect can hardly be used at present as relating to golf architects. There are also a goodly number of amateurs who have done very beautiful work which can truly be called artistic. Every architect owes it both to himself and to the golfing world to strive toward perfection. We believe it will be more profitable to him to build fewer and better courses.

There is progress for the betterment of golf architecture, but it is very slow. It will continue to be slow as long as the artistic sense is sacrificed to immediate commercial gain.

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## Pearlwort

By C. V. Piper

Pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens* L.) is known to occur in America along the Atlantic coast from Newfoundland to Delaware and the District of Columbia. It was recorded from Connecticut and South Carolina nearly one hundred years ago. The South Carolina record is open to doubt. In the interior it occurs at Toledo, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; and Denver, Colorado. On the Pacific coast it is abundant on putting greens at Victoria, Seattle, Spokane, Portland, San Francisco and Monterey. Wild plants however have been collected in out-of-the-way places as follows: Uyak, Alaska, *Jepson* No. 391 in 1899; Kukak Bay, Alaska, *Saunders* No. 3725 in 1899; near Cowichan Lake, Vancouver Island, *Rosendahl* No. 1758 in 1907; in muck land south of Newport, Oregon, *Lawrence* No. 1562 in 1907; in red woods near Crescent City, California, *Eastwood* No. 12,299 in 1923. These undoubtedly wild plants collected so long ago strongly suggest that the plant is native from Alaska south to California. It is strange that the occurrence of the plant on the Pacific coast has been overlooked by botanists, particularly as it is common on putting greens. But the answer may be that few botanists play golf.

In the writer's experience it is always a perennial, but the books say it may live but one or two years. In very arid soils or in the cracks of brick walks it may die from midsummer heat or drought, but it is very questionable if it ever is truly annual. It is usually easy to identify it from similar species by its peculiar habit and from the fact that the parts of the flower are in fours.