

## IN BRIEF

*J. R. Escritt summarizes some impressions of his trip to the United States.*

*Places visited included:—United States Golf Association, New York Office; U.S.G.A. Greens Section, Eastern Region; Hercules Powder Co., Wilmington, Delaware; Hercules Country Club; Merion Cricket Club, Philadelphia; Pennsylvania State University (and its golf course and playing fields); Williams Country Club Weirton (near Pittsburg); Rhode Island University and Turf Experimental Station; Beltsville Experimental Station, Washington (U.S. Department of Agriculture); Pebble Beach Golf Club (south of San Francisco) and others.*

Some points of interest:—

1. There is a great variation of conditions over the United States and it is difficult to find any really comparable with ours.
2. The philosophy of turf management (and everything) is different. This is partly due to the fact that there seems to be plenty of money available.
3. Few playing fields were seen at all. There do not seem to be many playing fields as we know them and I even heard an appeal over the radio for education authorities to provide physical education instruction in the schools.
4. Discussions were held on a fashionable process (i.e. hydroseeding) for sowing grass seeds, particularly on road verges.
5. It is clear that in general much more nitrogen is used on turf than we use in

this country. I am not clear as to whether this is necessary although the grasses they use (e.g. creeping bent) tend to be heavier feeders than the grasses we use.

6. Pennecross creeping bent grass gives a very good performance particularly in areas with a climate similar to ours but having a very warm summer. (Available as seed though very expensive).
7. Piper bent, a selected strain of velvet bent is apparently not as good as some velvet bent obtained from Yorkshire in 1937.
8. The best known strain of fine fescue—"Pennlawn" is comparable only with "Chewings" fescue, i.e. no great improvement if any.
9. Penn State University. A new set of experiments on physical soil conditioners may prove useful. Like most of the experiments seen, it is sponsored.
10. Construction costs for golf courses are extremely high compared with ours.
11. Everything is geared to the motor car age including the siting of golf courses, driving ranges, etc.
12. I gather that the Americans have not a good answer for clover and knotweed control. They were interested to learn about C.M.P.P. Clover was found on every area of turf seen right across the States. Knotweed was also very common being seen not just in muddy areas as we find it on football fields, but also on tennis courts, golf greens, etc.
13. Tall fescue selections are being worked on as being possibly useful for rough, tough turf such as racecourses.

## Your Questions Answered

The Association of British Manufacturers of Agricultural Chemicals (ABMAC) has appointed a full-time Information Officer to answer questions and give you news about agricultural chemicals.

She is: Mrs. Kathleen Holbrook.  
Address: Room W.4, 3 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1.

Telephone: Tate Gallery 2707 or Covent Garden 2363.

ABMAC now has 33 members and represents virtually all British producers of agricultural chemicals. The chief concern of ABMAC—a non trading organisation—is maintaining high standards of efficiency and safety.

It works closely with the Government on legal and other measures governing safe use of agricultural chemicals.

£70,000 municipal golf course is planned at Basildon New Town, Essex.

Last week more than 100 women at Barnsley, Yorkshire, Golf Club had signed a petition in protest against a ruling that women must not wear slacks in the club bar. Mr. John Hirst, 59, the Club Secretary said: "I have no objection to women wearing well-tailored slacks, but these tight trews are a bit much".

The Club Captain, Mr. Robert Robson, said: "This summer we had two women playing with bare midriffs. This is a golf club, not a Riviera beach. We must keep certain standards.

Mr. James Leonard left £100 to the Burnham Beeches Golf Club in his will to make a new bunker at the 440 yard 18th hole. Two bunkers on the left were not enough for Mr. Leonard. He wanted one on the right.