And Putting Greens in 1906.

(1898) and Horace G. Hutchinson in golf books, such as Gardon & Ancient Game Of Golf (1912), dealing with the establishment of golf courses on dry and sandy soils. Present-day research on this topic would find his methods of interest, including a nurse crop of rape to bring up fertility for germination.

Sutton again contributed a chapter to Harold Hilton's Royal & Ancient Game Of Golf (1912), as the game gathered momentum, Reginald Beale, director of rival constructors Carter's, produced two books, Lawns For Sport (1924) and The Book Of The Lawn (1931). These are of more than passing interest, as they display the then perceived notion that agricultural liming would help golf courses (there's a marvellous picture of the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club being "reconditioned" with the stuff).

We know now that all this caused such widespread damage that the Board of Greenkeeping Research was established. Just before this, Norman Hackett (the founding secretary of Bingley) produced a small book entitled Soil Acidity - The Vital Importance Of Top Dressing (1928), which sets out the 'cure' for over-liming - the acid theory. J. MacDonald and William Wood were other contractors and purveyors of fine turf who produced books in 1923 and 1934.

A.J. MacSelf and T.W. Sanders were, at times, editors of gardening magazines and produced books on Lawns And Sports Greens in the early 'thirties and Lawns And Playing Fields (1940) by F.J. Reed is often available and is a useful general reference.

In more recent times, there has been quite a spate of smaller books aimed ostensibly at the subject of lawns, but with some useful information for golf greens. Authors such as David Pycraft (of Wisley), Roy Edwards and, most recently, Bob Palin (director of Sutton's) and George Shiel (Writtle College, Essex) have brought the subject up to date.

I fear that I've strayed from my subject of golf greenkeeping and I have omitted the real heavyweight in the field, Practical Lawn Craft by R.B. Dawson, the first director of Bingley, initially appeared in 1939 and continued through several editions. In his declining years, Dawson was ably assisted by W.H. Bartle (also of the STRI) and this book should find a place in everyone's library.

It does seem a bit dated in parts and it is not entirely helpful with our modern self-inflicted problems of Poa Annua domination and thatch, but it nevertheless contains a great deal of useful information.

Dawson also produced a Penguin Handbook on Lawns in conjunction with the Royal Horticultural Society and one of his former assistants I.G. Lewis wrote TURF in 1948. To close the Bingley connection, it should not be forgotten that Dawson's successor J.R. Escritt published an ABC Of Turf Culture in 1978 and Lawns in 1979.

The two most interesting American text books are Turf Management (1950) by H. Burton Musser and Golf Course Management (1982) by Jim Beard, both sponsored by the USGA. Although they show an increasing divergence from British requirements, they are packed with interesting thought and information and we simply have to admire the commitment and leadership that the USGA has shown.

An interesting paperback I found is Lawn Keeping (1976) by Robert W. Schery, which manages to blend a good deal of basic science with practical information.