

The GOLF COURSE

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ONE of the most excellently designed golf courses in America falls just short of greatness because of the turf on the putting greens. There is no reason why this turf should not be beyond reproach, yet after a number of years it is only slightly better than it was in its second season. It has not been the case of a penurious policy, for enough money has been spent upon the greens to turf a half-dozen courses, but an ever-changing policy is responsible for the waste of money and the mediocrity of the turf.

It matters not how superior the materials may be. If they are not handled properly, satisfactory results cannot follow. A carefully calculated plan of treatment must be conceived and adhered to rigidly.

Unfortunately, the vital importance of the green committee generally is regarded far too lightly. Every club appoints a body of men in whose hands is placed the destiny of the course. Only too often this committee is assembled hastily and without due consideration of their qualifications. True, they may be faithful workers, yet the course in their charge does not improve, nor does it keep abreast of the times. Possibly at the end of a year or two there is a general housecleaning and a new committee appointed. The chairman, like

a new broom, immediately proceeds to "sweep clean," and often enough the policies of the former committee are disregarded and work begun along entirely different lines. It is possible that the policies of the old committee may have been ill-advised, but it is more than likely that if the work which they started had been continued along the same lines, results would be far more satisfactory than those following the pursuit of an entirely different program.

Grass may be produced in a few months, but the making of a real golf turf takes time. When new physicians constantly are called in, the patient is likely to suffer.

The rule of one of America's foremost clubs is well worth following. Here, years ago, an intelligent green committee was appointed, and after diligent investigation of conditions, it was decided to develop the turf along certain well defined lines. The committee worked in harmony with its chairman, each member schooling himself in the system, and when the chief finally relinquished the position, which he had filled so faithfully, his successor was appointed from among his associates who had worked with him so long. In this fashion, year after year, the green committee followed closely the methods started long before, and although the chairman may change, the old policy does not.

Certainly the work of green committees in these days is far more efficient than in past years. Committeemen seek knowledge and they investigate results of labors in other localities where the soil is similar to that of their own course. It is a rare thing now to find a committee which will be satisfied with any materials but those of tested excellence, but at the same time, any work which is to succeed must have its foundations deep in wisdom and its development adhered to unwaveringly.