

The Cost of Golf Course Construction

IN the August issue of THE GOLF COURSE we announced for an early date a series of discussions on the cost of constructing a first class golf course and at that time we appealed to our readers for their assistance in supplying the necessary data to make the discussion as valuable as possible.

We have received an exceedingly interesting and exhaustive report from the Scioto Country Club, Columbus, Ohio, which takes up in very great detail the cost of each portion of the course together with a very careful description of the methods and materials used. The directors of the club have very kindly given us their permission to discuss their report in the hope that their experience will be of value to those contemplating the construction of new courses.

The work at the Scioto Country Club was subject to more than the usual labor difficulties and in addition the extremely unseasonable weather which was experienced during the Summer made it impossible to obtain as great efficiency at all times as might otherwise be expected. The work was delayed and much additional expense was incurred on account of rains, which were unprecedented in the history of the local weather bureau. The excessive rainfall, in addition to increasing the labor problem, caused much loss through the washing out of various greens and fairways and the total cost of construction is conservatively estimated to have been increased by about thirty per cent. However, the committee in charge of the work believes that the very wet season had its favorable side in that it gave great experience with drainage conditions and caused many precautions to be taken which saved much future expense and inconvenience in case the trouble had developed after the opening of the course.

Space this month will not permit us to go into any detail regarding the Committee's report, but in the next issue of

THE GOLF COURSE we will present a careful study of the whole work and take up the various items of cost.

The response to our request for assistance from our readers in this discussion has been very gratifying, but we are anxious to get still more data from as many different localities as possible. We feel sure that nearly every country club can supply much information which will be of great value to the golfing world and we greatly hope that a large number of our readers will take time to aid us in this work.

The Covering of Putting Greens for the Winter

By LEONARD MACOMBER

IT must first of all be understood that turf does not suffer much from the cold Winter weather. Therefore, it is not necessary to protect putting greens with any heavy blanket covering of straw, manure, or leaves.

Winter killing takes place usually in the late Winter or early Spring season where the surface drainage is not correct, and in the low spots, any standing water alternately freezes and thaws.

Of course, on very exposed positions, turf often suffers from the cold winds and ice, and it is advisable to use some artificial means to help matters—such as the laying of clean branches around the greens and sometimes on them, so as to help collect the snow. A covering of snow has a very beneficial effect on turf, as it protects it from extreme temperatures, cold winds and keeps it comparatively warm and with the final Spring thaw, the soil has an abundant supply of moisture.

It is always well to top-dress putting greens late in the Fall, just before the cold weather becomes settled, with a quarter to half-inch layer of sand or compost, depending upon the nature and condition of the soil, and sometimes add charcoal for sweetening. Work the dressing into the existing turf with birch brooms or the backs of rakes and