

The GOLF COURSE

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THE weather is always a topic of conversation, but this year it has been unusually so. In some localities in the Eastern States, it rained excessively from the Spring months well into August—while in the middle West after a wet Spring season, most localities suffered severely from very hot dry weather extending for six or eight weeks from about the first of July.

In the Chicago district, the fair greens in July and August on all the courses were burnt to a crisp and the ground was as hard as the sidewalk, with perhaps an exception or two.

The turf on the putting greens on many courses became very spotted, this being due in some cases to the acidity of the soil, but in the majority of cases to a turf disease. As far as known such conditions were never experienced before by many of the committees. We are starting in this issue a series of articles on "Grass Diseases and Parasites" which we hope will be interesting to the many victims of this season. It will be noticed that there are many common diseases among grasses, which very seldom are diagnosed correctly.

This has been a bad season for clover in greens, and as the fine grasses have suffered, weeds, clover, water grass, and coarse growths have been very

much in evidence. In many places, newly sown seed showed very poor results. In fact there was very little germination noticeable where existing turf was renovated.

Where the soil is of a *heavy clay* nature and climatic conditions are severe, the importance of constructing the putting greens with a foundation of cinders and tile to take care of the drainage properly and also a fifteen-inch layer of a composition of soil, sand and manure to supply the necessary plant food and to produce the finest turf, has been demonstrated this season. We will soon publish an article on this subject.

We have frequently mentioned in these pages the question of compost piles. This is a matter which no club can afford to neglect. If no steps have yet been taken in this direction it is important to get at the matter at once. The building of a good compost pile of a size adequate for the needs of the course will result in the saving of much money in the future.

The article on Bulbs in this issue should prove of interest to many Clubs. A great deal of improvement in the grounds near the clubhouse will be noticed, in the Spring, if a few appropriate bulbs are planted this Fall. The flowering bulbs also make a fine table decoration for the clubhouse.

PROFESSIONALS and green-keepers frequently request us to advise them where they can secure situations. We shall be glad to furnish the names of competent men.