

The GOLF COURSE

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AFTER a war-enforced intermission of three years, the GOLF COURSE, living up to the Carter motto, "comes up smiling" with pleasure at the warm welcome that awaits its reappearance at the hands of its many friends. These friends have been demanding its advice in no uncertain terms, each mail bringing in requests that vary from urgent cries for help to insistent demands that we get busy.

Busy we are and busy we have been, but we can no longer turn a deaf ear to our many readers, and it is with a very real pleasure that we wish to assure them all that the GOLF COURSE has come back to stay.

In 1916, when the GOLF COURSE made its initial appearance, it was the first bulletin to be devoted wholly to the interests of Green Committees and Greenkeepers. It always took great care not to trespass on the ground covered by magazines that devote their columns to the playing of the game. As its name implies, it deals with the science and art of greenkeeping. It aims to assist in the efficient production and maintenance of the course itself. It deals with divots and not with divotees. And this policy will be continued, since it alone fulfills the requirements of those to whom the GOLF COURSE is presented.

Moreover we feel that their requirements are greater now than they have been in the past. Much has been written on the subject of greenkeeping since the publication of the last num-

ber of the GOLF COURSE, and some of the writers have shown dangerously little knowledge—and a mistake in greenkeeping is terribly costly. Some of this written matter has of course been good but much has been bad and dangerous. Those interested in greenkeeping are greedy readers of all that is written on their favorite subject, but unfortunately not all of them have sufficient knowledge to separate the good from the bad, the sense from the nonsense. It is to them we hope the presentation of concrete facts in these columns will prove of especial value. At the same time we have not lost sight of the fact that many experienced committeemen and greenkeepers, whose knowledge of turf production is both sane and safe, have been among the most insistent in their demands for the reappearance of this bulletin. The reason is an obvious one. They do not find that any other bulletins or articles now being published quite satisfy their needs—they are not convincing.

Our methods as expounded in these columns, have always been practical, and, for that reason, convincing. An ounce of practice is worth a pound of theory, and we have distilled tons of theory in the refinery of practice. Science is merely our very good servant. There can be no worse master.

For this reason we hope that our readers will pay close attention to the article appearing on the third page dealing with the Bent situation. Notwithstanding the remarkable success in establishing fine turf on many modern courses through the use of reliable mixtures, there has been considerable agitation this year in favor of sowing greens with pure German bent seed, and this in spite of the fact that it is next to impossible to obtain such seed as will pass the tests imposed by the Seeds Importation Act of 1912 as now interpreted. Supposing, however, for the sake of argument, that the bent seed which has found its way into the country—although much of it is well below the required standard—were worth the price asked for it, there would not be

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ers of sulphur applied when the grass is wet may also be recommended for bad outbreaks of the red mould, etc. Excepting in cases where soil is sour, solutions of Kainit (one ounce per gallon) are useful in helping the grass to resist mild attacks of rust, etc. Ground charcoal is particularly useful in most cases. Note—Several weak applications of Bordeaux mixture applied with a hand pump and spray will check most all of the common grass diseases.

All dressings are best applied in the evening, as it is during the night that mildew spreads most rapidly. On soils liable to repeated attacks of various grass mildews, the excessive use of nitrogenous and crude acid manures should be avoided, and where it is necessary to hasten the growth without unduly forcing the grass, phosphatic dressings should be used. Bone meal must be blamed for causing a large amount of fungoid growth as well as encouraging clover; whilst leaf mould, especially that from ash and sycamore leaves, also sets up mildews, though the advantages of the leaf mould may possibly outweigh the disadvantages. It is quite possible that the use of mushroom soil for top dressing greens causes a fungus growth under certain conditions.

Most of the diseases referred to are noticeable when they are in the form of white, gray or orange-colored moulds, this generally being the spore-bearing stage. It is then that precautions to prevent the disease from spreading should be taken. Rough grasses in hedgerows, reeds, and rushes are nearly always infected with rust and other diseases, so these should be kept cut down as much as possible. Cigarette ends and bits of rag lying in the turf are frequently the starting place of the white grass mildew. Leaving cut rye grass on the turf is also particularly bad, as a poisonous ferment is set up by the rye grass leaves that rots the finer grasses.

There is, however, a brighter side to this gloomy article, for parasitic fungi are not always injurious to the plants on which they live, and in some cases

plants when infested with a particular parasite often grow more robust and vigorous than the non-infested plants. This condition, known as *symbiosis*, is noticeable in the case of rye grass. Even if grasses have their parasitic enemies, all plants are affected in the same manner, and, like "the fleas that have lesser fleas upon their backs to bite 'em," so these different mildews and fungi have other moulds that live upon them, which keeps the balance of Nature and prevents every blade of grass in the country from being destroyed. The *Yellow Rattle* is also punished for its greedy disposition of living on the grass roots by suffering in its turn from a parasitic fungus that causes gouty swellings on its roots.

EDITORIAL

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enough seed to supply one-hundredth part of the clubs which would naturally use it if they followed the advice of the bent agitators. Obviously since there is not enough to go round, their advice is not practical.

There is, however, no denying that bent grass is the most desirable species in the finest putting green turf with the possible exception of New Zealand Fescue. Unfortunately it is not at present commercially available. The time may come when the importation of true German bent seed, of sufficiently good quality to satisfy the demands of our Government and of reasonable price, will be possible. When and if it does, let us use it, not alone but in combination with reliable fescue and when occasion demands one or two other varieties to suit local conditions.

THE BENT SITUATION

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all-around turf for putting greens in many sections of the country. In some districts the Bent varieties are natural grasses in the soil and should by all means be encouraged.