270 Attend Southern Calif. Turf Conference

A highly successful two-day Southern California Conference on Turf Culture was held on May 8 and 9 with a registration of 270 visitors covering all of the various interests in turf culture, including athletic fields, golf courses, parks, cemeteries and air fields.

The morning session of the first day was held at the turf plots on the Ornamental Horticulture area of the Los Angeles Campus of the University of California. Dean R. W. Hodgson opened the conference by welcoming the visitors on behalf of the College of Agriculture of the University. Professor Pierre A. Miller of the Division of Plant Pathology explained the testing of fungicides which he had conducted during the past season. These trials were part of a national cooperative program. Professor R. N. Jefferson of the Division of Entomology described methods of determining the presence of turf insects and presented the results of his experiments with various control measures.

Mr. John E. Gallagher, in charge of maintenance of the experimental turf plots, explained the series of tests with fertilizers. These plots show a moderately high requirement of nitrogen for the maintenance of high quality putting greens of creeping bent. These trials also indicate the desirability of the new urea-form fertilizers for turf growing. Other test plots demonstrated that 2, 4-D can be used successfully on bent grass greens if certain precautions are taken. Methods of planting stoloniferous grasses were discussed.

Mr. Charles K. Hallowell of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Extension Service and currently on a visiting appointment in the Division of Ornamental Horticulture showed the results of various methods of aeration of turf on the root systems of grasses.

The performance of various new strains and species of grasses in the plots was explained by Professor V. T. Stoutemyer of the Division of Ornamental Horticulture.

The afternoon program was held at the Riviera Country Club with Mr. Colin C. Simpson, Chairman of the Research Advisory Committee, presiding. The various members of this group, which includes representatives of the various interests concerned with turf culture, were introduced. Professor John J. McElroy of the Agricultural Extension Service of the University at Berkeley spoke briefly of the activities of the University in relation to agriculture. Mr. Howard A. Miller told of the importance of turf culture in Southern California. Mr. Hallowell outlined his re-
suits of a survey which he has been conducting on turf conditions in Southern California and stated that he considered soil conditions to be the most important problem. Dr. Fred Grau of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section discussed recent new developments in turf culture, emphasizing the remarkable results which are apparent from the selection and breeding program for new bermuda grass, bluegrass, bent, fescues, zoysias, and others. Professor F. L. Howard, of Rhode Island State College, showed many colored slides of turf diseases and discussed diagnostic symptoms and treatment. The number of known diseases which attack turf is about one hundred.

The Tuesday morning session was devoted to an extensive equipment exhibit under the supervision of Mr. E. B. Marzolf, a member of the Research Advisory Committee. Mr. Charles K. Hallowell discussed the subject of mechanical aeration of turf and showed slides of this operation on Eastern athletic fields and golf courses. Dr. Fred Grau discussed the nutrition of turf grasses and emphasized the need of air for roots to make possible their uptake of nutrients. The correct timing of applications to favor certain grass when grown in mixtures was emphasized. The program was concluded by a talk on irrigation and water problems by Professor A. F. Pillsbury of the Division of Irrigation and Soils.

Resolutions were passed by those attending the conference requesting the Agricultural Experiment Station to finance the experimental program in turf culture, which was initiated and has been supported by private contributions, and to provide an extension staff member in turf culture.

A five-story building at 40 East 38th Street, New York, N.Y., has been purchased by Golf House, Inc., to serve as the future home of the USGA and its Golf Museum and Library.

The building will be known as "Golf House." It is a 25-foot-wide, limestone-front, American basement dwelling, with elevator. After alterations, the USGA expects to occupy part of it late in September. Until then, the USGA will maintain its present quarters at 73 East 57th Street, New York City.

Golf House, Inc., is a New York corporation formed by the USGA for the purpose of acquiring and holding this property.

The building was purchased from Elliott D. Odell for $72,775, including a mortgage. Brokers for the purchaser are Douglas Gibbons & Co., Inc.; and for the seller, Malcolm E. Smith Co. The purchaser was represented by its General Counsel, Fraser M. Horn, a member of the firm of Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle. The seller was represented by Edgar H. A. Chapman.

"Golf House" is being established with funds contributed by individual golfers, clubs and associations throughout the United States, as well as in Canada and South America.

Thus far $44,749 has been subscribed by 2,601 contributors. Total estimated final cost of the project of establishing this national center for the game of golf will be approximately $100,000.

All golfers are cordially invited by the USGA to participate in founding "Golf House." The names of all contributors will be inscribed as Founders on a permanent roll in the headquarters.