BALLAD OF THE BIG STRONG PROS

(An earful of close-up on the boys at the PGA National course)

Reported by HARRIETTE W. CURTIN

(who is the ever-loving wife of Joe Curtin, professional at Indian Hill Country Club, Newington, Conn., and who tenderly dedicates her epic to the healthy merry and very active self-proclaimed invalids.)

There's winter of rest for the worn, weary pro
At Dunedin fair on the Gulf Mexico
Where the moss-draped trees and the tall palms sway
And the pro after summer can joyously play.

In the northland he labors at home club toil
On tee and course where a chop would broil.
There his every aim is his members' fun;
No play for him 'til his work is done.

Then comes welcome winter down Dunedin way
Where I listen to him, hoping he'll say
That he's found the secret to make my golf great,
But that I've not heard, most sad to relate.

Each gorgeous morn each relaxing brother
Will come to the club and all to each other
Will recite a long list of pitiful ills,
Too bad for a surgeon, too bad for pills.

An athlete confesses in accents forlorn
"I'm not very fit this beautiful morn,
"Painful bursitis is killing my shoulder,
"It really is hell when a fellow gets older."

Then the keen competition really gets hot
And each pro will relate the ills that he's got:
"I've phlebitis real bad in my only good leg;"
"Each finger I grip with is merely a peg."
"I'm woefully ailing from a horrible hook;"
And all other maladies found in the book;
Slicitis, topitis, missitis, rhinitis, arthritis,
Shankitis, neuritis, St. Vitus, puttitus!

Through the medical catalog I hear them cry
And I wonder why they don't lie down and die.
Yes, and so help me, that's just how it goes
As they moan of themselves as the broken-down pros.

But hold, my good friend, shed not your hot tears
For these sportsmen famed, these poor aching dears,
Feast and they sing and gay stories they tell
And play their sick rounds remarkably well.

All summer long no pains have they had
But in winter at rest they get illness bad;
All are seven aches up on each other one
And enjoying themselves in the Florida sun.

SOIL CONDITIONER SOLVES

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good structure and porosity of this soil were stabilized.

Meanwhile, we aerified the green, using plug-type aerifier with hollow tines. Aerifying in two directions we put a ¼-in. hole, 4 in. deep, every 8 in. all over green.

The soil treated with chemical conditioner was then applied to the green at the rate of one cubic yard per 5000 sq. ft. and matted in with a commercial metal foot-scraper mat so all "aerified" holes were well filled with treated soil.

In practice we found that this procedure actually entailed less labor than the older methods in which we had prepared and transported mixtures of soil, sand, peat, manure and other additives.

Improvement in 60 Days

Watering and fertilizing were then carried out regularly, as the green demanded, based on periodical soil tests.

What happened?