Golf Books

The World of Golf. By Charles Price. Random House, 457 Madison ave., New York 22. It is claimed that this is the first complete history of the game since part of the book goes back to the 15th century Scot practitioners and then proceeds to the present day circuit pros. Bob Jones contributes the Foreword to the book which has more than 200 illustrations (many supplied by Jack Level) with eight pages in full color.

Charley Price analyzes the records and offers many illuminating insights into the games of Vardon, Travis, Hagen, Jones, Hogan and others. He attempts to probe the reasons why some men are or have been more consistent winners of major tournaments and why others seem to be doomed to finish with the pack. Interesting anecdotes concerning all aspects of golf are skillfully woven into the book.

How to Play in the Low 120's By Stephen Baker. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N. J. Price $4.95. The author makes the point that flailing, sobbing, distraught golfers may appear to be lunatics, but what casual observers don’t appreciate is that these people are having fun. He thinks that the majority of players lose confidence too soon . . . they play 10 or 15 years, hear that others are breaking 120, and then finally go to pieces when they find that they can’t touch this figure. The book is illustrated with ludicrous photos by Howard Zieff which show a chubby, soulful duffer proceeding from trap to rough to trap as he hacks from the No. 1 tee to the 19th haven.

Stephen Baker wrote “How to Live with A Neurotic Dog” in 1961. Probably the word ‘Dog’ could be changed to ‘Golfer’ and nobody would know the difference.

San Diego Preview

Supts. and turfmen who are planning to make the San Diego trip for the annual GCSA convention may want to get a preview of the city by reading “The Good Old Days” by Oscar W. Cotton (Exposition Press, 386 Park ave., New York 16 — Price $4.75). Just off the press, the book tells how San Diego blossomed into California’s third largest city from an obscure settlement. The writer is a realtor with a sagebrush background. He has written a few articles on golf in his day and includes a chapter on the game in his book.