

The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

Official Organ of The National Association of Greenkeepers of America

Published monthly at 407 Caxton Building, Cleveland, Ohio.

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VOLUME I.

No. 2.

An Editorial

By G. A. FARLEY

CRITICISM is a two-edged blade. The just edge is sharp and makes a clean cut. The unjust may be likened to the edge of a cross cut saw, discarded after a hard winter in the Minnesota north woods.

He who deals out just criticism is a kindly surgeon operating with a sharp blade to remove a malignant growth which will in a short time threaten your progress and well being. The kindly wielder of the just blade leaves you with the feeling, "Well, I'm glad that's out! I'll be the better for it."

When the saw edge of unjust criticism cuts its jagged way through your nerves, it takes fortitude to stand the pain, and patience to turn the blade. An impatient man does not look upon fortitude as a virtue. He is all for taking a short cut away from his tormentor, no matter how rough the road. It often leads him far from the objective he has long been seeking to attain. The naturally impatient man thinks quickly, *except in emergencies*. Emergencies demand a cool head.

Perhaps the man who criticizes unjustly is laboring

under a misunderstanding. He may be misinformed. Quite likely he is a kindly man inadvisedly using the wrong edge of the knife. The victim of unjust criticism who has a good measure of self control takes these possibilities into consideration. He clears up the misunderstanding quietly and with dignity, maintains his self respect and inspires the respect of his critic.

I have learned this lesson from a greenkeeper.

For four years this greenkeeper has filled a difficult position, where each year a new chairman has been appointed on the Green committee. Not one of these chairmen was appointed because of his knowledge of the maintenance of golf turf, although all of them are of high standing in their community and well loved by their families and their friends.

Today, because of his self control and good management, my good friend the greenkeeper is respected by every official of his club.

Because he is a good soldier in the battle of life, he shows no scars.

Coming!

THE MARCH SHOW NUMBER

Before the Golf Show!

Earlier Mailing Date!

More and Better Editorial Matter!

More Advertising!

More and Better, That's All!

Take it with you to the show,

Mail your promise that you'll go!

Come on, brother, pack your grip,

Make Chicago! That's a tip!