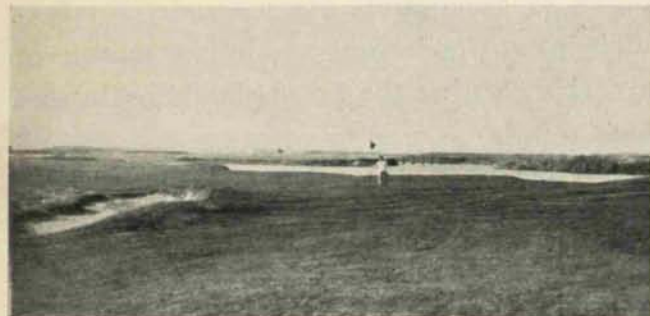


## Better and More Economical Compost

By JAMES A. SMITH

**P**RACTICAL experience, during the past few years has shown that materials entering into and the manner of handling compost can be greatly improved upon.

The primary purpose of the compost pile has been to produce a humus from decaying sod, manures and other organic matters and to have



THE WELL-KNOWN REDAN HOLE AT LIDO  
The shot is 160 yds. and the green slopes away

this humus, through ageing, become a fixed part of the earth in which the decay has taken place.

Since the production of good compost is one of the most expensive operations we have on the golf course and so frequently the product proves unsatisfactory, the following methods of economically handling should be of interest.

It has been demonstrated that a one-half acre plot of almost any ordinary, well drained soil, so located that it will not become easily infected with weed seed, makes a good beginning for a compost bed. This should be plowed as deeply as possible and reduced to a fine state by farm tools.

Upon this should be spread forty-five tons of good humus, or its humus equivalent of well rotted manure. This should be at once disced until it appears to be a good mixture of earth and organic matter. If well rotted manures are used the quantities should be increased several times over the quantity of the humus indicated.

From this on, the more frequently it is stirred with the plow, disced and cultivated, the better mixture of earth and organic matter there will be and the progress of ageing will be

speeded up. If good humus, comparatively dry, is used, within six months a perfect, permanently mellow, easily screened top dressing will have been produced and ready for use. Rotted manures will require approximately one year of ageing before a complete decay has been accomplished. If top dressings are needed and the compost bed is wet, opening up with a spike harrow, on a bright day with a drying wind, will quickly allow the screening of the top inch or more.

Upon this area it is possible to produce approximately 500 tons of good top dressing at a total cost of less than \$1 per ton, due to the mechanical means employed. The area exposed to the weather speeds up the necessary ageing.

### No More Free Prizes

By EDWARD B. DEARIE, JR., *Secretary*

The first meeting of the winter season was held Wednesday, November 14th, at the Great Northern Hotel, Chicago, by the Mid-West Greenkeepers Association.

The recent greenkeepers' tournament was the principal subject of discussion. A letter from Mr. Fred Sherwood of Northmoor Country Club, Ravinia, introduced the topic. Suggestion was approved that a letter be sent to him while he is spending the winter in England thanking him for his services in connection with this event. After some discussion, the organization went on record as opposed to the acceptance of prize money from merchants and as favoring the use of funds from the treasury.

A membership drive was approved and plans were suggested to bring in additional members. The possibility of having an application blank published in green-



14th HOLE AT RIDGEMOOR C. C. CHICAGO.  
This is the author's home course

keeping magazines met with favorable consideration. It was felt that greens chairmen should be encouraged to insist on their greenkeepers joining the organization.