

Golf is Popular Everywhere

THE game of golf is liked equally well by those who live on prairies and in flat sections of the country, where rolling land is not convenient. It was not long since ambitious plans were made to put steam shovels and tractors to work and actually build golf courses, removing dirt at one place and replacing it at another place so that the whole would result in a pleasing landscape. Such requirements test the imagination and skill of the golf course architect. To be satisfactory the moulded environment must seem natural—and not artificial. Twin Orchards Country Club and Bryn Mawr Country Club, in the Chicago district, Topeka Country Club and Dallas Country Club all have courses built artificially—but which do not look "artificial."

The next step was the development of hillside golf courses. Flintridge Country Club, Pasadena, was one of the first examples. It was followed by the fine Ojai Golf Club at Santa Barbara. Oakland Hills Country Club has a pleasant hillside course at Detroit while the Field Club has another one at Pittsburgh.

Hillside courses are somewhat interesting to play because it is necessary to allow for gravity with each stroke. Maintenance often presents some perplexing problems. Heavy rains have a tendency to wash the best top

soil away and a great deal of attention must be given to drainage. Trees help to retain the black soil so desirable for fertility.

From the hills to the mountains was only a jump with seven-league boots and now there are a number of excellent mountain golf links. Among them may be mentioned courses at Denver, Colorado, Mt. Tamalpais, California, Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, and White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. While mountain courses are scenic, it is somewhat expensive to build and maintain them. The cost of clearing the land and blasting huge boulders and large stumps is quite an item. Ledges of rock sometimes interfere with the original cultivation of the land. Almost invariably the best top soil has been washed down into the lowlands.

Meanwhile, courses were being laid out in the canyons of California, one of the features of the Golden State. Shut in by over-hanging cliffs and steep barren hillsides these are peculiarly beautiful and the green of the turf contrasts well with the yellow of the adjacent soil. Although it is difficult to design and construct a canyon course, excellent results have been obtained by the Belleaire and Riviera Country Clubs at Beverly Hills and El Caballero Country Club, Van Nuys.

The heat in shut-in canyons is often un-



11TH HOLE AT GLEN OAKS, GREAT NECK, L. I.

This beautiful Long Island course has long been considered a model of architecture