Short Course for Greenkeepers

University of Wisconsin devotes five days to interesting study of problems of course maintenance and turf.

BY H. HANKINSON

The first greenkeepers' course ever held by a state university in the Mid-west was conducted by the College of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, from February 10th to 14th inclusive. Fifty-nine greenkeepers from Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin were enrolled in the course.

Faculty members for this course included the best that could be secured in the various fields. Specialists were selected not only from the College of Agriculture, but also from other places, so that expert instruction in all phases of golf grounds management could be given.

The subjects covered a wide range of interests from maintenance problems, golf grounds equipment and land drainage, to discussions regarding care of turf and plantings and the preservation of natural beauty on golf courses.

In detail in several lectures by John Monteith, grass specialist in the Greens section of the United States Golf association. The soil as a basis for plant growth and the use of fertilizers were handled in a practical way by O. J. Noer, soils and fertilizer specialist, and by C. J. Chap-
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man and E. J. Graul, professors of soils in the College of Agriculture.

Among other worthwhile things in his talks, Mr. Noer stressed the importance of the physical characteristics of soils and showed that many disappointments in the matter of turf were the result of neglect to get good physical structure at the start.

Seed Expert Gives Advice

In lectures and seed demonstrations, A. L. Stone of the Wisconsin agronomy department informed the greenkeepers of the impurities to be found in cheap mixtures of grass seeds and warned against purchasing seeds from companies not known to be reliable. In his laboratory section, students of the course were shown how to detect certain weed seeds, chaff, and other matter detrimental to good stands of grass.

Diseases of grass and other pests of golf courses, such as animals and insects, were discussed in an enlightening manner by A. S. Dahl, disease specialist of the United States Golf association and by H. F. Wilson of the Wisconsin economic entomology department.

Drainage problems were handled by E. R. Jones and F. W. Duffee, College of Agriculture engineering department, and home-made devices and commercial equipment for golf courses were taken up by C. A. Tregillus, manager of the A. D. Lasker estate at Lake Forest, Illinois.

Franz A. Aust, associate professor of landscape design, gave suggestions and advice in the care of trees. He also pointed out that responsibilities rested with greenkeepers everywhere in the matter of helping to preserve natural outdoor beauty. The golf course, he said, should be maintained as a portion of America's beautiful countryside and seldom landscaped to resemble a city estate.

Laboratory Work Interesting

Four laboratory sections during the course gave all students opportunity to study more in detail the problems taken up in lecture and discussion periods. These groupings were particularly helpful because actual equipment and materials could be seen and handled.
tory subjects consisted of seed studies, soil problems, gas engines, and land drainage. Each group was given instruction in a different subject each day.

An hour or more every day was given over to discussions of the topics taken up in the lecture periods. These round table talks were informal; students were urged to ask questions relating to their own personal problems in golf course management, and answers were given by experts in the particular line of discussion announced and by experts in closely allied fields, one or more of whom were always present. In these round table discussions, students also profited from an exchange of experiences with other students, they said.

At the close of the four and one-half day session, the greenkeepers were agreed that the information and practical studies packed into the course might well have been extended over a period of several weeks.

Following is the formal program of the course, and a list of the students enrolled:

**Short Course in Greenkeeping**
University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisc.

**STAFF**
F. A. Aust. Professor of Landscape Design, University of Wisconsin.
C. J. Chapman. Professor of soils, University of Wisconsin.
A. S. Dahl, Disease Specialist. Green Section, U. S. Golf Ass’n.
F. W. Duffee. Professor of Agricultural Engineering, University of Wisconsin.
E. J. Graul. Professor of Soils, University of Wisconsin.
E. R. Jones. Professor of Agricultural Engineering, University of Wisconsin.
John Monteith. Grass Specialist, Green Section.
U. S. Golf Ass’n.
O. J. Noer. Soils and Fertilizer Specialist, formerly Soils Dep’t, University of Wisconsin.
A. L. Stone. Professor of Agronomy, University of Wisconsin.
H. F. Wilson. Professor of Economic Entomology, University of Wisconsin.

**PROGRAM**

General sessions held in Horticultural Building.

**Monday, February 10**
10:00 a.m. Registration
1:15 p.m. Announcements
1:30 p.m. Grasses for golf course, their adaptation and propagation — Mr. Monteith
3:00 p.m. Properties of soil and their relation to plant growth — Mr. Noer
4:00 p.m. Soil acidity, its detection and control — Mr. Graul

**Tuesday, February 11**
8:00 a.m. Grass seeds and their impurities — Mr. Stone
9:00 a.m. Sources of plant nutrients — Mr. Chapman
10:00 a.m. Grasses for greens — Mr. Monteith
1:30 p.m. Laboratory instruction
Section 1 — Seed studies — Mr. Stone
Section 2 — Gas engines — Mr. Duffee
Section 3 — Land drainage — Mr. Jones
Section 4 — Soils — Mr. Graul
3:30 p.m. The use of fertilizers for turf development and maintenance — Mr. Noer

**Wednesday, February 12**
8:00 a.m. Diseases of grass and their control — Mr. Dahl
9:30 a.m. Animal and insect pests of golf courses — Mr. Wilson
10:00 a.m. Round table on grass fertilization — Mr. Noer
1:30 p.m. Laboratory instruction
Section 1 — Gas engines
Section 2 — Land drainage
Section 3 — Soils
Section 4 — Seed studies
3:30 p.m. Tree planting and care — Mr. Aust

**Thursday, February 13**
8:00 a.m. Principles of land drainage — Mr. Jones
9:00 a.m. Care of turf — Mr. Monteith
10:00 a.m. Round table on grass problems — Mr. Monteith
1:30 p.m. Laboratory instruction
Section 1 — Land drainage
Section 2 — Soils
Section 3 — Seed studies
Section 4 — Gas engines
3:00 p.m. The labor factor — Mr. Tregillus
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