

CHAPTER XXXI

MISCELLANEOUS

Prices—Advertisements—Advice by Post—Inspection and Reports
—Conclusion.

Prices

Here I am between the devil and the deep sea. Some tell me that by including prices I am vulgarising the book with the taint of commercialism, and also point out that they are in a liquid state and subject to violent fluctuations.

Well! Well! I am out to give the fullest possible information in regard to the subject under discussion, and this cannot be done unless the book is complete in every detail, and if one leaves out the prices of various materials and fittings required it will be very incomplete, so I have decided to issue a complementary Supplement which will contain all, excepting those of Mowers and Rollers, which I feel should be published in the chapters devoted to them.

Advertisements

I have refused to entertain or accept any advertisements, as I wish to keep a free hand and only recommend commodities, machines, etc., of which I have an intimate knowledge as a user, and one of the general public.

Advice by Post

I am always ready and willing to give advice on the subject under discussion to the best of my ability free of all charge; but in order to ease my burden, please write clearly, distinctly and as concisely as possible, using one side of the paper only, and in no case use post-cards, which are impossible to file.

When sending in an inquiry the following particulars should be given:—

- (1) Is the ground a new one or an old one?
- (2) For what games is it to be used?
- (3) Is it to be sown with grass seeds, turfed, renovated, fertilised, or worm-killed?
- (4) Give the area or measurements of the whole ground, and also of any parts used exclusively for lawn tennis, croquet, bowls, cricket, football, hockey, polo, etc. In the case of golf courses, the approximate size of the greens should be given.

(5) Send samples of soil weighing about 1 lb., or turf measuring 3 inches square.

(6) Is water laid on?

(7) In what way is the ground unsatisfactory?

(8) Any other information that is likely to be helpful.

The more information that you give me, the more I am likely to be able to help you.

Inspection and Reports

I am open to inspect golf courses, athletic grounds, race-courses, and, in fact, any lawn or turf used for sport, and supply a typewritten report upon the same for an inclusive fee, which will be quoted in advance. Address all inquiries to Reginald Beale, c/o Carters Tested Seeds, Raynes Park, London, S.W.20.

Conclusion

This has hardly been a labour of love. I hate writing as the devil hates holy water; neatly turned phrases and sentences will not flow from my pen. I often have to think hard, desperately hard, for suitable words, which by the way are few unless one uses long ones so difficult to spell, or adopts scientific and technical terms employed by the learned but not properly understood by many.

I have committed the deadly sin of repetition time and again, but it is done with the deliberate object of saving those interested in one game the trouble of reading about another.

The pages are full of references, but how can one avoid them without further repetition, and as a set-off, who has ever seen pages more boldly numbered?

I have endeavoured to be clear and definite, and struggled against confused or involved passages, in fact, have tried to put what little knowledge I have of the subject at the disposal of all.

It has its bright side, however. I have ground it out with meticulous care, every subject has been tackled with painstaking patience, and no soft padding has been used. I set out to state in plain English how to construct and keep sports grounds of various sorts, and if I have succeeded I have surely achieved merit, because it has been written, and, I hope, graven in durable brass, "Much merit is due to the man who makes two blades of grass grow in the place of one."