

# MINIBITION

by

G R. YOUNG

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The title does not refer to the size of the Annual Exhibition of Turfculture, Sports Ground and Playing Equipment organised by the National Association of Groundsmen. The exhibition seemed bigger and better than ever and fittingly so on its twenty first birthday. My first impression after one orbit of the vast circle of exhibitors' stands at Motspur Park was one of the preponderance of things "mini". There were mini-tractors galore. The B.M.C. 4-cylinder diesel-powered Mini Tractor took pride of place on the far from mini-sized stand of Messrs T Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Ltd. This new tractor, lightweight and versatile, is priced at £585 for the HPU Model, £512 10s. 0d. for the Standard Model. Strikes and Mr Callaghan permitting this all-British product should sell well. Parkers were also showing four models of Bolens Husky Tractors. These aptly-named minis range in price from £280 (6 h.p.) to £430 (10 h.p.) at the latest dollar rate of exchange. If you collected one of the Bolens attractively coloured brochures you will be able to admire not only these tractors, their mowers and tillers but also the sartorial splendour of the American golfer on page 2. Other small tractors on view were the new 10 h.p. Colt de Luxe shown by Colt Tractors Ltd. and the £357, 9 b.h.p., single cylinder 4-stroke MotoStandard on the stand of John Allen & Sons (Oxford) Ltd.

Mini trucks were represented by M. H. Stephens, Son & Co.'s new "Sturdy", taking a payload of up to 30 cwt., and the 1 ton Martin Bonser Truck shown by Malcolm Martin Engineers.

There were mini hedgecutters, mini-power-saws and the Tarpen Engineering Company were showing a new mini-engine power pack for their Tarpen Flex range of work heads.

But, of course, there were things large there too. One thinks immediately of the Ford 3000 Tractor, which the makers claim will increase output 30 per cent. Also the new Massey Ferguson Tractors—the M.F.2135 and the 2130 Highway Tractor, the former developed from the 35X and powered by a 45.5 h.p., 3-cylinder direct injection Perkins diesel engine, the latter a 30-h.p. diesel. Also in the giant class was the new two-engine Turfmaster produced by H. Pattison & Co Ltd. The Turfmaster has two independently driven spike drums with 64 tines located to provide 10 in. spacing. Water ballast can be used in the centre of the drums if required. Spike bars are 2 in. square reinforced steel and the spikes have 9 in. x  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. effective use. Chisel and slitting tines are also available. The six land wheels are arranged so that no wheels pass over any spike holes and the pre-entry angle of the spikes is positively controlled and avoids surface disturbance.

"Ride-on" Motor Mowers were well represented and seem increasingly

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popular Messrs Edward Thomas & Co. (Oswestry) Ltd. were demonstrating their new self propelled flail type grass-cutter, the Brott 27 The cutting mechanism on this machine is such that pebbles, twigs and litter are swept up into the collecting sack or trailer without damage. Ride-on, flail, rotary, gang and even one or two push-and-pull mowers as well as every other type of mechanical aid were being displayed and demonstrated by Messrs Ransomes ("Buy British Buy Ransomes"), R. C. Craig, Sisis, T Green & Son, Lloyds & Co., Patissons, C. H. Pugh and a host of other firms whose names are well known to the greenkeeper and whose representatives are frequent visitors to every golf club.

It was a change to find a stand showing all the things one should not have. I mean, of course, the tiny plots of turf displayed by the Sports Turf Research Institute, each contaminated by some dread disease or unwelcome growth. If you were unfortunate to recognise one of these patches or pollutions as being similar to those on your greens, tees or fairways, one could seek advice, readily imparted by the ever-helpful S.T.R.I. advisers and then hurry along to the dispensers of turf disease cures. Messrs Cannock Agricultural Co., Carters Tested Seeds, Fisons, Berks, Maxwell Hart, Sutton & Sons, and many others had attractive and businesslike stands showing their own brands of insecticides, weed-killers, fungus-destroyers. Autumn/winter fertilisers were featured by most of these firms as were all other types of growth promoters—sand, loam, peat, manures and, of course, grass seeds.

If you had mechanical problems Messrs Relf & Kendall were there to help you. If your club was planning a tournament and seating accommodation was required for the gallery, Lodge Equipment Ltd. in conjunction with Messrs T Parker & Sons were showing ingenious Portable Spectator Stands. Each unit to seat 60 could be erected in eight minutes, and could be bought or hired. If you felt like investing in some really good switches, Messrs Stewart & Co. were ready to sell you at £4 15s. each their improved "St Andrews" Turf Switch. This has a metal tubular handle and a glass fibre switching tip which can be set for light or heavy work. If you felt like a moistener you could go to the mobile bar, to the exhibit of British Overhead Irrigation Ltd. and stand near their new high-speed "Wizard" self travelling sprinkler or get on the wrong side of any of the highly efficient sprayers being demonstrated by Pressure Jet Markets Ltd.

It was a very successful exhibition. Perhaps one missed the charming setting of Hurlingham, the nostalgic click of croquet balls, the brightly coloured wild-fowl and most of all the excellent catering and bar facilities but after all one went to see an exhibition of Sports Ground equipment and see it one could at Motspur Park. The stands were not cramped and being in one wide circle were easy to find. Most important the enormous arena in the middle gave ample scope for demonstrations and the exhibitors were taking every advantage of this. And the weather—three days of uninterrupted sunshine and blue skies.