

TREAD CAREFULLY, STRANGER

Start Right — From the 1st to the 19th

The experienced Duffield Sims continues to explain etiquette to novice Roger Green.

THE fourball which Roger Green was watching played to the seventh green and Dick's ball landed in a bunker close to the green. He prepared to play it and shuffled his feet in taking his stance.

After playing the ball he took a lot of trouble in smoothing the holes his feet had made and that made by his club. He then walked carefully out of the bunker smoothing his footmarks with his club.

"See that," said Duffy to Roger, "that is something you must always do. A hole left can trap a ball later and this is unfair. You must, to use a popular phrase, always leave a bunker as you would wish to find it."

On the green, Tommy was busy using a peg (the kind used on a tee) to repair a hole caused when his ball had hit the green which was rather soft. He carefully pushed the turf back into place and then gently patted it level with the bottom of his putter.

"Always repair your pitch-marks, Roger," said Tommy, "we must all do our share in keeping the green in good condition. If players didn't do it, you can imagine how the greens would suffer."

"You can do this after holing out but don't hang around unnecessarily. Someone may be waiting to play to the green."

"My turn to putt," said Duffy. "Roger, make yourself useful and take the flagstick out, please."

Roger did so but stepped very close

to the hole and then dropped the flagstick rather heavily on the green.

Duffy said nothing but when they had finished the hole, spoke to Roger. "You did three things wrong then. You stepped on John's line, that is, the line from his ball to the hole and you could have left a footmark there."

"Always go round behind a ball if you can or take care to step clear of anyone's line."

"The other two things concern the care of the green. You should try to keep your feet as far away from the hole as you reasonably can and the flagstick should be laid down gently."

"And, incidentally, never, never, take your trolley on to a green but keep it a reasonable distance away."

"Some players will take a trolley between the green and a bunker very close to the green, but the good golfer and good club member take it round the outside of the bunker."

"Quite a lot to it," said Roger, "but I'll leave you now — I've disturbed you enough. Thank you all for being so helpful."

"Right," said Duffy, "we'll talk more about etiquette later. It cannot be stressed too much. And please watch how you go walking back to the clubhouse."

"Don't walk across fairways if someone is playing that hole and don't walk close to anyone playing a shot. In other words, don't get in anybody's way."

(With grateful acknowledgments to the "Bristol Evening Post")