

(contd. from p. 4)

These drainpipes had been laid in the long ago not many inches below the surface. The passage of horse and single mower had insufficient pressure to move the soil beneath them. Heavy tractors had caused sufficient earth movement to shift the pipes out of alignment.

Perhaps I am one of those who has not moved with the times. While they have to be used, shortage of manpower demands it, I still dislike to see a heavy motor-mower on a green, or a light one for that matter. It is all very well to say that the exhaust fumes are dispersed in the air. As with spraying from flying machines, they settle on the ground.

None of which is to deny that the modern green is a vast improvement on its predecessors. But look at the chemicals (unnatural) that we use, and watering. A subject on which (to borrow from Sherlock Holmes via Henry Longhurst) I hope to write a trifling monologue.

\$20,000 per hole

Golf course construction costs have more than doubled in the past decade, according to the National Golf Foundation.

Ten years ago a lot of fine golf courses were built for \$10,000 per hole, it claims, some for even less. *Today the minimum cost is usually around \$20,000 per hole and many 18-hole layouts are running \$600,000 or more.* This does not include land costs or clubhouse facilities; just the golf courses—ready for play.

* * * *

Grave Defeat

A golfing clergyman had been beaten badly on the links by a parishioner 30 years his senior, and returned to the clubhouse rather disgruntled.

“Cheer up,” his opponent said. “Remember, you win at the finish. You’ll probably be burying me some day.”

“Even then,” said the preacher, “it will be your hole.”

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