

# Advises a Course Doctor

By DUER IRVING SEWALL

THE chap who originated that old quotation, "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise," never was the treasurer of a modern golf club. Had he been the chances are he would have quoted it something like this: "Where ignorance causes ills, 'tis the fools that pay the bills," for certainly too few treasures of any golf clubs today can have the complete satisfaction of knowing absolutely that their clubs received a dollar's worth of real, honest-to-goodness results for every dollar spent on maintenance.

Enough money is wasted every year through pure ignorance, indifference, or through the over enthusiasm, and over selling to build many courses.

On practically every golf course throughout the country there are innumerable problems arising constantly to test the ingenuity and knowledge of the greenkeepers, and in some bad cases they are

unable to answer them in a satisfactory manner.

What is the result?

Time, material and money are wasted, with no apparent result; dissatisfaction on the part of the player; blame laid on the greenkeeper, H—— given the treasurer for spending the cash; a committee meeting called; and the matter thoroughly thrashed out with the final conclusion, that the best thing to do is to call for advice. They talk to some "would-be" authority, and finally end up by doing what they should have done in the first place—call in the "Doctor."

Who Is the "Doctor"?

Just who and what is the "Doctor"?

The "Doctor" is a turf expert, a service man, a man who has by virtue of years of hard study, practical experience, extensive research work, travel and observation on many golf courses acquired a

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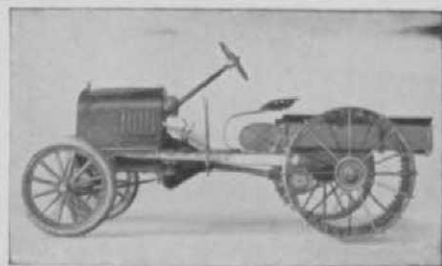
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thorough knowledge of all phases of construction and maintenance of courses—a man who has studied the cause and effect of various grass diseases, and who can prescribe for them. In other words, the "Doctor" is a man who can "prescribe" for your trouble, or if it is serious, can "operate" if necessary, and is an all-around "practitioner" whom it would be well to consult.

His fees are high, perhaps, but when you consider the fees necessary to pay for the services of any type of specialist, in any line of work, the fee charged by the golf course "doctor" is small, especially when compared to the amount of money spent and wasted, through failure to consult him.

How many greenkeepers know how and when to treat brown patch correctly? What is algae? When and why does it come? How, and with what material to treat it? What causes the action of plant food to stop? How to prevent it? What to do when it does? And some easy ones: When to roll greens and when not to roll them? When and when not to leave grass cuttings on the greens? How to make and maintain your compost piles? What material to use?

These questions are all easy if you know the answers to them, but even these few are problems of great importance in the economical maintenance of courses, and are costly if unable to be answered at the time an answer is most desired. The loss of even a day sometimes proves very costly.

### "Doctor" Worth While

The golf course "doctor" knows the answer to these things and is able to give specific instructions. Is it not worth while to consult him, pay his fee, and save a first-class turf, rather than to "have an idea" how it should be done, try experiments, and find to your sorrow that you have spent good money on costly material, used it in the wrong way, given too strong a dose, perhaps—and ruined a first-class turf?

Too few clubs today know about the "doctors." There are many of them and good ones, too. One, and perhaps the greatest reason why the "doctor" has been given so little consideration, is due to the fact that when he has been given a call, made his "diagnosis" and "prescribed" for an ailment, the proper mode of procedure, and correct materials to be used, his "prescription" has not been fully carried out to

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complete the cure, and the results have proven unsatisfactory.

Too often a "doctor" has been consulted, has "prescribed," given his instructions, and left. The greenkeeper has started his treatment, some one else comes along, criticizes, thinks he knows of some other method and medicine, and immediately raises a doubt in the mind of the greenkeeper. What is the result?

The man may be a "big bug" in the club, and the greenkeeper feels he ought to follow his advice. He does so, casting aside the "doctor's" prescription, and ignoring his instructions, the result is nil. Who gets the blame? The "doctor," unjustly, of course, but unfortunately so, in many cases. Give him a chance, by completing his prescribed course of treatment, and following out his instructions to the letter. Then, if you get no results, shoot him on sight, but in any event you are no worse off than you were before. Don't let anyone "butt in" on a prescribed treatment until completed, and then give the "doctor" the benefit of the doubt. Many a man has died while under the care of the best known doctors.

You cannot expect results overnight; you cannot expect results if you wilfully

neglect the recommended treatment, and you cannot expect results at all if you are unwilling to consult and pay for the services of one who does know. The "doctor," remember, has spent years of his life acquiring this knowledge for you and for your course.

When you stop to consider that today the cost of sod, fertilizer, worm eradicators and manures are high, compared to what they were years ago, you must realize, if you stop to think about it at all, that none of this material must be wasted; that every dollar spent must produce a dollar's worth of good, and it can be made to do so, if skilled knowledge is sought, used and paid for.

Skilled knowledge can be obtained. Why not avail yourself of it, and not only conserve costs, but get better turf conditions, besides keeping the players satisfied and happy.

The "doctor" gives service valuable to all, and his charge for this service is money well spent. There are good, bad and indifferent golf course "doctors," just as there are good, bad and indifferent doctors in the medical world. Pick out a good one, pay him his fee, follow his advice, and watch results. You won't go wrong.



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