

members knew you and that settled the matter.

Bill—That was fine for me, but how about the fellows who wrote letters of application? They planned the composition of their applications, figured out the proper salary to expect, mailed the letters and waited. For what? Not even an acknowledgement. Is that the spirit of fair play on which golf is founded.

Mr. Thompson—No, I guess not. But we couldn't answer all those letters.

Bill—Well, multigraphed letters are not expensive, and even a postcard would do. But anyway, if you keep in touch with the manufacturers' employment bureaus and GOLFDOM they will eliminate a great many applications by suiting the man to the job. If the club wants a married professional, why should a single man write, and vice versa? If the man must have charge of the course, why should a tournament player apply? The P. G. A. employment bureau we hope will get functioning on a basis that will handle these details.

Mr. Thompson—Thanks, Bill for the suggestions. We'll try them out. I guess when a professional is left so much to himself as far as supervision is concerned, more care should be used in the selection. If we get one as good as you, we will be glad.

Bill—Thank you, Mr. Thompson. There are plenty of good professionals but a lot of them do not have a chance to get jobs worthy of their ability.

Soil Condition Essentials Controlled by Greenkeeper

By MATT MELVILLE

Greenkeeper, Southmoor Country Club

THE matter of maintaining soil fertility is entirely up to the greenkeeper. The action of the soil does not remain stationary, but it is constantly changing and the different elements in the soil are being transformed into energy which makes plant life possible. It is the ability to release these elements in the soil and transform them into plant food, that keeps the greenkeeper interested in his work.

On the average golf course we are dealing with either clay or sand, that is either heavy or light soil. There are of course, definite classes of soil; the important ones of which are gravel, silt, loam, clay, sand and humus. Humus in its natural state is in timber land, where the soil reveals

the decomposition of leafy matter. We are not very often blessed with a soil of this type to work with on golf courses, but more often with either clay or sand. In clay soil we always find some humus.

Sandy soils are always deficient in food content, brought about through excessive air circulation and drainage. Humus should be added to sandy soils, to give them more body and also add food that is rich in nitrogen. Sandy soils are always lacking in potash and adding this element is also an improvement.

Heavy clay soils are very often rich in food values, but owing to the fineness of the particles that make up the soil, the water and air cannot penetrate sufficiently for the food elements they contain to release themselves. Sand and humus added to the heavy clay soils break up the heavy particles, bring lightness and allow air to penetrate the mass.

Tightly packed particles of clay out of which has been squeezed the moisture and air is practically impossible for the growth of plant life. All soil is dependent on air and moisture to produce plant life. This air and moisture is controlled entirely by the size of the particles that go to make up the soil.

Bacterial action is the agency by which chemicals in the soil are converted into plant food. This action is controlled by air and water which are allowed to percolate through the soil.

The presence of plant food is determined by the amount of water, because this food must be in a soluble form. The temperature of the soil depends greatly upon the amount of moisture held within and brought to the surface by evaporation. A small portion of sandy soil magnified will show larger and smaller particles, surrounded by air spaces. These are being constantly changed by the action of temperature, the amount of water and also evaporation.

When you cultivate soil you loosen the surface layer, thus forming a mulch, the loose surface of the soil or the mulch prevents the escape of moisture through capillary attraction. The mulch checks evaporation, otherwise moisture would be wasted as would be the food elements that are held in suspension.

We cannot practice the same method of cultivation on a putting green a farmer can on his crops. Our system of cultivation and mulch is made possible by top-dressing.