

Green Section Confab Features Research

By B. R. LEACH

ANNUAL meetings of the United States Golf Association Green Section were held on January 4th and 5th at the Commodore Hotel in New York City. The audience present at the meetings was relatively small as compared with former years probably due in no small part to the lack of publicity given the event.

The program was opened at 10 a. m. on Friday morning by Chairman Findlay S. Douglas, who extended a hearty and metropolitan welcome. Then followed the annual report of the chairman of the United States Golf Association Green section research committee, H. L. Westover. He disclosed that there were 1,056 members of the green section; \$28,000 was spent by the green section and that 3,120 copies of the bulletin were published monthly. Research work during the past year had consisted in testing various strains of grasses, studies of disease control and the determination of the best methods of applying fertilizers and mercury compounds.

Mr. Westover announced the inception of new experimental turf gardens at Palo Alto, Calif. and Chicago, Ill. and that demonstration turf plats at 15 golf clubs in various parts of the country would be established. Future research work to be conducted by the green section will stress the fundamentals such as drainage, soil structure, etc.

John Morley was next on the program with a paper entitled "Greenkeeping Yesterday and Today." Mr. Morley is president of the National Association of greenkeepers and may be considered one of the deans of greenkeepers in this country. He described how the greenkeepers of 15 years ago were handicapped by lack of information and inadequate mowing machinery. He brought out the point that it requires from three to five years to train a man for greenkeeping, that many golf course ills are due to unqualified golf course architects and contractors and that these latter gentlemen should be working with the greenkeeper while the course is under construction.

The most interesting thing as regards

Mr. Morley is his obvious sincerity of purpose, a rare commodity amidst the ankle-deep bushwhacking and baloney of the turf-maintenance game.

The next paper was of a general nature, by R. F. Arnott, entitled "Old and New Problems as Viewed by a Green-Committee Chairman." He stressed the fact that green-chairmen should be a go-between, between greenkeeper and club rather than delve deeply into turf culture; that should be confidant of greenkeeper but not dominate.

Acid-Soil System Questioned

"A Professional's View of Turf Problems," by John Mackie was next on the program. Mr. Mackie is a very able speaker. The important point of his paper dealt with the fact that there is active rebellion in many quarters as regards the present acid-soil system of turf maintenance, the rebellion having been brought to a head by the past season's woeful experience with turf disease. He warned the rebels to be careful and not change their methods too radically.

"Standardized Accounting in the Detroit District," by J. W. Bryant, Jr., described how the Detroit Green Section had studied the problems of cost analysis, labor costs, etc., and the conclusions arrived at. This address came in for considerable comment by members of the audience. Group studies of golf course maintenance costs periodically come to the fore but it is an open question as to just what useful purpose they serve. Often they are used as a club to swing over the head of some conscientious greenkeeper.

The afternoon session opened with a paper by John Monteith, Jr., entitled, "The Green Section Experimental Work" in which he emphasized the importance and value of the new experimental turf gardens now established or about to be established in various sections of the country.

Next on the program was a paper by C. A. Tregillus entitled, "The New Experimental Turf Garden at Chicago." Mr. Tregillus is in charge of this turf garden located on the Lasker estate and judging

