

of six holes each; the total lengths and the par figures for these different circuits being variable between any practical figures (e.g., between a minimum length of 1,750 yards, par 21 or 22, for one six-hole loop, and a maximum length of 7,500 yards, par 78, for one eighteen-hole circuit) at the will of the designer.

A sexpartite arrangement of thirty-six playing units—i.e., six loops of six holes each—will permit 288 players to be sent off in one hour (thus completely filling the course with 72 foursomes), and such a course will provide for the playing of 576 individual eighteen-hole rounds in a seven-hour period. This thirty-six hole assemblage will offer a choice of *twenty* primary, *thirty* secondary and *six* tertiary courses of eighteen holes; *fifteen* primary and *six* secondary rounds of twelve holes, and of *six* primary rounds of six holes; and each of these circuits or rounds may be made to present its own individual characteristics and to differ from all of the others either in length or in difficulty, or both.

It is somewhat surprising that the many manifest advantages of the hexaplex grouping of the successive units of a golf course have not seemingly been recognized—since they have not been utilized—by those who have been most active in the planning of our links and who are, to that extent, responsible for the existing status of golf architecture in this country. One of the obstacles to progress in this matter is the attitude of many golf architects who are no doubt able and worthy representatives of professional playing ability but who are fettered by mental inhibitions and are handicapped by archaic practices. "Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery," but it is no more conducive to progress and success in the golf course designing than it is in any other line of endeavor; and the great multitude of recently constructed links, which are mere inconsequential and unimaginative variants on some ancient example, or some traditional pattern, with which the builders of these courses may be most familiar, is a rather severe commentary on the abilities of those responsible for their construction.

In conclusion I take the liberty of paraphrasing the remarks at the end of Mr. Colt's admirable "*Essay on Golf Course Construction*" (p. 56)—because it so well expresses my own attitude—and state that this and other articles which I have written on this subject are not intended "to

defy the expert or to instruct the novice."

The ideas which I have advanced are merely intended to arouse the average golfer to a realization of his rights, as contrasted with the conflicting interests of the relatively few experts who look upon a golf course only as an arena for the exhibition of skill in match play, and to suggest to this great but usually silent majority of players certain lines of thought and certain questions for debate which may lead them to study more closely the present defects and the inherent possibilities of the course on which they play, and to take a more active interest in improvements in links design.

Park and Playground Manuals Are Valued Works

New York City—A. S. Barnes and Company, 67 W. 44th st., announce publication of "Parks—A Manual of Municipal and County Parks," in two volumes, price, \$20, and "Play Areas—Their Design and Equipment," price, \$2.

The "Parks" book is compiled as a result of a nation-wide study of municipal and county parks conducted by the Playground and Recreation Association of America in co-operation with the American Institute of Park Executives at the request of the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation. This extensive work was financed by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial under the direction of L. H. Weir. It is a complete and practical work, priceless to those concerned with the proper promotion of the outdoor public recreation movement and those who are responsible for park operation. Planning, financing, construction, operation and other details are treated fully by text and illustrations.

There is considerable material relative to public golf courses in the two volumes. The work is unquestionably a practical classic.

George D. Butler edited the "Play Area" book for the Playground and Recreation Association. Although the strictly golf aspect of the book is limited to practice putting courses, due to the restricted space available for "Play Areas" as defined by the context of the book, there is considerable of value in the details concerning swimming pools, winter sport and children's playground facilities that is of interest to the operating management of the modern, fully equipped country club.