

Pacific ocean in its layout, a truly brilliant course; not to neglect mention of Cypress Point nearby.

More Than 500 Soils

The Great Valley, which occupies the major central portion of the state, has a legion of more than 500 distinct varieties of soil washed down from the mountains which surround it on all sides. There are many golf courses in this great farming territory, many of which are of the sand green variety, although summer heat precludes year round enjoyment of the game.

The Klamath-Siskiyou region in the northwest corner of California is comparatively unimportant from a golfing standpoint. This is a rugged lava-strewn region which receives plenty of moisture, but the nature of the land forbids many golf courses. This is essentially a mining area.

In the northeast corner of the state is a huge volcanic plateau, the rockiness of which forbids any tilling of the soil. It is almost devoid of golf courses.

The Sierra Nevada mountains are a diastrophic block which constitutes the greatest single mountain range in the United States. In it there are 30 peaks with altitudes exceeding 13,000 ft. One of these is Mount Whitney, the highest point in the nation. Some of the mountain resorts here have their own golf courses, but they are necessarily short for the most part.

The Great Basin located in the southwestern states has a portion of its edge in the southeastern part of California and contains such picturesque but very dry features as Death Valley, the lowest and hottest point in the United States, the Mohave Desert, and the Colorado River basin. Not a territory conducive to golf but one containing a surprising number of nine-hole courses with sand greens which have their earnest adherents as does the most verdant club although they may not have a blade of grass upon them.

Force Feed Is Schedule

It may be seen that greenkeeping in California has a range as great as that of the state itself with hundreds of new problems demanding a solution every day. The vaunted climate is really an enemy of the greensman as has been hinted already. While Eastern courses are recuperating from summer wear beneath a foot or two of snow, the California clubs are pounding along on the same old force-feed schedule. A few of the private courses are able to shift play to temporary greens for a short period during the year; others quite con-



P. & A. Photo

"You must avoid fatigue," the doctor told Curtis W. Willock of Pasadena, Cal., so Mr. Willock bought this electric car and thus continues to golf and at the same time obeys the doc's command.

sciously allow the grass to become dormant and disregard the complaints of the players. But the problem of the public course is a harder one. Usually it has no room to spare for temporary greens and must remain open at all times. If it allows the turf to deteriorate in any way players refuse to come and the precarious existence of the course is undermined further.

It is a hard state for the greenkeeper. The public is now demanding fine grasses not indigenous to the region in which the courses are situated. Wages are comparatively low to the Eastern standard. There has been a scarcity of experimental stations of any kind and such bulletins as are obtainable nearly always apply to Eastern conditions. Consequently greenkeepers have had to feel their way in obscurity using a trial and error mode of procedure. In Southern California many of the greenkeepers get together on one of the courses once a month to discuss ways and means of confronting the various enemies of turf culture. They also have a monthly magazine published for the same purpose. The one thing which this group has found to dominate all others is that fixed treatments are prescribed for one set of conditions which have only a remote chance of obtaining locally.