

panying report of labor and some other maintenance costs at Birmingham, Grosse Ile, Essex, Orchard and Meadowbrook, and asked clubs receiving this information to exchange figures.

Although the usual criticism of inability to accurately and helpfully compare gross amount reports without considering variations in courses, the figures can be compared on a percentage basis so they will be of value to greenkeepers and chairmen.

Dickinson Gives Pros Greens Lectures, March 16 and 18

PROF. L. S. DICKINSON of the Massachusetts Agricultural college lectured on greenkeeping before audiences of pros, greenkeepers and club officials at Detroit, March 16, and Kansas City, March 18. The Dickinson lectures were details of the PGA educational program. At the Detroit meeting Albert R. Gates of the PGA also spoke, telling about selection of the Ryder cup team and expressing the opinion that with golf clubs getting back to golf the game could expect a good year ahead.

Dickinson's remarks at these meetings gave many of the pros who are responsible for course maintenance for the first time this year an excellent general survey of the job before them. He pointed out that golf's troubles now were not alone due to the general hard times but because the clubs had forgotten their foundation was supposed to be golf. Clubs that now are in difficulties almost invariably must attribute their misery to unduly high clubhouse fixed charges.

As workable averages, course maintenance costs are divided 75% for labor and 25% for materials, Dickinson said. Labor division figures were cited from the GOLF-DOM survey made under Dickinson's direction, as follows: tees, 8%; fairgreens, 12%; rough, 6%; traps, 2%; greens, 37%; construction, 11%; miscellaneous, 24%.

Some of the high spots of the Dickinson addresses:

"The greenkeeping policy should be to inform but not to dictate to committeemen.

"A good part of greenkeeping difficulty is due to working with a living organism.

"If you give grass half a chance or better it will put up a good fight for existence. Turf failures too often are due to acts of men. Nature is trying to help the plant. Reasonably healthy turf is remarkably resistant to trouble.

"Turf failures are due to cumulative errors, construction errors, immediate errors or pestilence. Of the cumulative errors the most frequent is that caused by compaction from poor topdressing.

"Don't use cumulative errors or construction errors as an alibi.

"It's hard to remove the cause of many turf failures because of the difficulty of diagnosing the source of failure. For that reason, too, correction can not be made at once, although immediate correction, of course, is what players always demand, not knowing the frequently complex nature of the problem.

"To eliminate construction errors check on your greens foundation, drainage and design.

"Main causes of immediate or cultural errors are: overwatering to hold the ball, overmowing of fairways, over-fertilization, poor technique, over-use of chemicals, failure to understand fertilizers."

Dickinson also gave his hearers some valuable, elemental information on grubs, fungous diseases and other turf pestilence. He advised them if they were having a lot of mysterious trouble with their greens to see if the source might not be in the topdressing.

The two educational sessions at which Dickinson appeared were successful beyond expectations. There were some misgivings that fellows who should have attended the many greenkeeping short courses during the winter would attend the Dickinson session and expect that Dick would give them deep secrets and some hypnotism that would make them master greenkeepers instantly. His talks tipped off the boys to basic thinking procedure as the foundation of successful greenkeeping rather than attempting to cram them with volumes of technical information.

Although the meetings were under PGA auspices, they were open to all interested in greenkeeping, so they not only benefited PGA members from an operating and educational point of view but gave the pro organization some great publicity for its efforts to contribute freely to the advance of golf.

West Newton, Mass.—New England Toro Co., 1121 Washington st., West Newton (Boston), has issued its 1933 catalog of course maintenance equipment and supplies, copy of which will be sent free. The book is one of the most complete course maintenance purchasing guides and shows some marked reductions in prices