

clothed with heather, gorse, bracken, etc. which is very pleasing to the eye.

British greenkeepers take up readily any efficient mechanical tool or implement, provided that it gives a good finish.

Water is laid on to the greens of most good golf courses but it is seldom if ever required on the fairways. Fertilizing is carried out by the use of topdressings and various types of complete grass fertilizers.

### Condemns Acid Theory.

Up to 1928 the soil of the greens was kept neutral to alkaline and, in consequence, fertile and healthy.

Later a Board of Greenkeeping Research was instituted which accepted the American acidity theory as a fundamental truth.

The Board has a very influential backing and is financed by the Golf Unions, some clubs and a few private individuals. The theory was taken up enthusiastically by some, reluctantly by others and not at all by those who knew their subject.

It has now been going on for about 5 years and as the miracle of perfect greens free from worms, weeds, coarse grasses, etc. has not materialized and the turf has seriously deteriorated instead of improving, there is a suppressed revolt going on. Suppressed because the officials of a club do not like to admit that their greens are not as good as they were and because of the difficulty of questioning a "Board of Research" backed by prominent agricultural scientists.

To put it shortly the Committees who know little or nothing about the subject are worried and confused. The Secretaries fear to offend the official Gods whilst the head greenkeepers with their jobs at stake have to do the best they can.

The pot is simmering and it will not take much for it to boil over and then I think we will revert back to sanity.

The word "Research" is wonderfully inspiring but when the quest is directed by enthusiasts and cranks, as is often the case, it leads nowhere and advance is retarded.

I saw nothing in the U. S. A. to attract me to the acidity theory but not having visited the country for about 15 years I do not know if it is generally practised now or simply given lip service. I do know, however, that it has been in existence for a sufficient length of time for it to be proved beyond doubt or written down as bunk.

## Soil Management for Greenkeepers Is Valuable New Book

"SOIL Management for Greenkeepers" has been published recently by its authors M. H. Cubbon, assistant professor of agronomy at Mass. State college, Amherst, Mass., and M. J. Markuson, assistant professor of agricultural engineering at the same college.

The book, beyond any question, is something that will find a prominent and helpful place in the library of the greenkeeper and green-chairman who is keeping up with his job. It is written from an intensely practical angle, but is not so deep that even the new green-chairman will be lost in a welter of technicalities.

Chapter heads are: General make-up of soils; Fundamentals of chemistry; Plant nutrients and soil acidity; Effects of organic matter on soils; Nitrogen changes in soil; General considerations in fertilizers; Fertilization of golf greens; Fertilization of fairways; Watering greens; Use of weed killers and other poisons; Causes and remedies for wet lands; Engineering methods; Profile leveling, etc.

There is considerable material in *Soil Management for Greenkeepers* that has not appeared in other manuals of practical greenkeeping.

Price of the book is \$3.00 postpaid. Copies will be sent on receipt of remittance either by GOLFDOM's Book Dept., 14 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, or direct from the authors.

### British "Green Section" Issues Annual Report

OVER in England, the Board of Greenkeeping Research corresponds to the USGA's Green Section. Founded in 1929, it maintains experimental gardens at Bingley, Yorkshire, and its activities include inspection visits to clubs; analyses of soil samples, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, etc.; advisory letters; lectures; and demonstrations.

The 1932 annual report of the B. of G. R., just at hand, contains in addition to the formal resume of the year's activities, several articles of considerable interest to American greenkeepers, including one on nitrogenous fertilizers, one on worming fairways and one on the identification of grasses.