

## Memorial Drive Is Proposed to Help USGA Finance More Golf Turf Work

By T. H. RIGGS-MILLER

**F**EBRUARY 11, 1936 marked the tenth anniversary of the death of Dr. Charles Vancouver Piper, whose name has become synonymous with that richest of nature's garments—grass. Bent grass had been used in conjunction with other grasses for years, but it was Dr. Piper, who directed so definitely its use for the formation of fine putting green turf. He revived the century-old practice of vegetatively growing different species of this grass. It was through him and the USGA Green Section Bulletin that bent grass has become established as the standard putting green turf in the four corners of the earth.

Everyone who lived through growing pains of the Green Section, is enriched with experiences and memories of days past, but not forgotten. But sad to say, many of those, who did so much to establish the Green Section, have passed on to the green pastures of another world.

John Monteith, Jr., present head of the Green Section, was but a fledgling back in 1926 when the mantle of Dr. Piper fell upon him. But he has proved his mettle in assuming the great responsibilities and worry thrust on his shoulders by the death of his idol. This fact has given Monteith an austerity far beyond his age.

I said the mantle of Piper descended to Monteith. Although this is not true in the literal sense, it is absolutely true in practice. Prof. Carrier had left the department and that lovable character, Dr. Russell Oakley, collaborator and intimate of Dr. Piper for a lifetime, was beginning to feel the symptoms of the sickness that would soon carry him away. So, Monteith was made the standard bearer without the help of Piper's dynamic organizing or Oakley's investigatory spirit. How young John Monteith faced and overcame all these obstacles, no one outside himself will ever know.

Dr. Piper was perhaps better known in the forage grass field, than in golf. It was he who caused the investigation and discovery of a grass growing in the vicinity of Khartoum, 2,000 miles up the Nile. This Sudan grass has added millions of dollars to southern agricultural wealth.

This last year Dr. Monteith has been studying air currents for the control of brown-patch, together with chemical weed

destroyers and other subjects. With a skeleton staff, how many important investigations have been sidetracked?

### Unknown Costs Retard Turf Research

How much does it cost clubs not to know some little thing? What will golf courses do if some entirely new malady attacks their turf? How much would a club save if, like disease-resisting sugar cane, a new variety of disease-resisting grass could be found? The greenkeeper cannot be expected to know these things, no more than the family doctor would know a new infirmity without the assistance of the richly endowed laboratories, medical, and disease investigators.

Every person who plays golf is directly interested in the pleasure he derives from the type of putting greens and fairways that cover his course. It ought to be worth 25 cents a year to him to know that the man in charge of his course is in touch with up-to-date investigations on the best methods to provide and maintain carpet-like greens and velvet fairways.

The mechanics for collecting these quarters, if taken up energetically ought to produce results comparatively easy. By enlisting 1,500 clubs as USGA members, which clubs could be induced to assess their members 25 cents per year for five years, an average of 200 members would give \$75,000 per year or \$375,000 in five years.

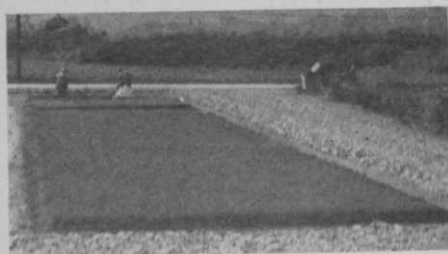
Instead of casting a statue of bronze or carving Dr. Piper in stone, why not in this year of our Lord 1936 resolve to inaugurate the Piper & Oakley Foundation and dedicate it to their memory from the grateful golfers of the country.

Such financing of USGA Green Section work in turf would enable the Section to do the thorough scientific job envisioned by its founder.

The 15 years of the Green Section have seen substantial achievement, and, of course, the mistakes inevitable in human endeavor. But that period has sharply defined the province of the Green Section as that of scientific research, that of co-ordination of golf turf work of various able and independent sectional agencies, and that of field work. Such departures from a strictly scientific function as the ill-starred experiments of local buying bureaus, took up their doomed days; but this served only to more clearly mark the true function and future of a national Green Section service.

The tenth year after the death of the

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Green Section's prime mover presents Dr. Piper's idea on the threshold of its period of greatest development and service. And this can be accomplished if there are golf club officials who can compare the turf technical situation of 15 years ago with that of today and prevail upon their clubs to act in accepting their pro-rata financing of a service that has demonstrated its value to every golfer.

### Massachusetts Golf Assn. Issues Helpful Greens Booklet

**A**NUAL diary of the Massachusetts Golf Assn., of which Edward J. Poor is chairman and Frank Wilson, James McCormack, John Counsell and Harry P. Hood constitute the sub-committee on course maintenance, again presents a helpful notebook to the state's greenkeepers.

The book contains articles on Fairway Watering by Harold Pierce; Liming Grassed Areas by H. B. Sprague; Lead Arsenate to Control Turf Insects by W. D. Whitcomb; Soil Acidity and Turf by H. F. A. North; Essentials of A Fairway Fertilizer Program by O. J. Noer; Common Turf Diseases; Caddie Tips; and miscellaneous data, together with the daily diary and memo space.

### MY MAINTENANCE METHODS

(Continued from page 18)

ing practices have become so standardized that there is little I can say regarding the methods on one particular course that are different from those on a thousand or more other courses.

#### Wide Variation In Watering Methods

By comparison, our watering practices show great diversity, due not only to differences in greenkeeping practice but to variations in soil type, character of turf, exposure, climatic influence and a number of other factors that make very small piece of grass an individual greenkeeping problem. These variations are so manifold that it would be impossible to lay down any one set of rules by which a novice could confidently expect to gain satisfactory results. Watering plants, whether they be flowers or grass, whether growing in a greenhouse or outside, require a technique that must be acquired by actual experience, to which must be added a certain intuition.

Greenmen learn with practice just about how much water it takes to satisfy