Grass and Greenkeeper at Mercy of Players and Weather

By JACK DARAY

RECALLING the miseries of 1935 when greens over a wide midwestern area went out from scald and fungus diseases, the knowing greenkeeper winces as he considers that he may again be helpless this year if weather conditions are such that he is forced to excessive watering.

Extensive observation of greenkeeping from the viewpoints of golf architect, player and greenkeeper has convinced me that the hardest problem of the greenkeeper is to keep from over-watering his greens while at the same time keeping his players satisfied. The average player wants every shot that lands on the green to stick there, regardless of the fact that a shot to bite hard must be played with such skill that even the most talented of pro and amateur stars can't be sure of this result.

Consequently, players demand the greens be kept so soft that a skidding, hard-topped shot will stay on the putting surface. The green-chairman gets complaints and in turn rides the greenkeeper with the result that the greenkeeper, in desperation, soaks the greens and hopes that the weather will not be such that his grass will be destroyed by steaming or baking, or by diseases that find grass easy prey when in weakened condition from an excess of water.

Reconstruction Often Necessary

What complicates the problem in many instances is faulty construction, which can only be cured by rebuilding. In many of the cases where trouble has hit hardest, the greens are badly located from a maintenance standpoint. In other cases the greens were constructed during that wild era when many courses were built by sharply competitive bids and the successful bidder found himself compelled to work on such a narrow margin that he turned the top soil over and buried it in order to save on his dirt handling costs. The greenkeeper and the club are paying the bill for that false economy.

I can see no quick and complete solution of this problem that puts the greenkeeper in the middle between the player and the weather. Not unless the matter is handled by educational bulletins displayed in the locker-room and pro-shop, describing the situation simply and with

such finesse that the player, who is unable to play proper approach shots, will hesitate before he insists on softening and imperiling the greens by over-watering.

Don McKay Elected Head of Connecticut Greensmen

ANNUAL meeting of the Connecticut Assn. of Golf Course Superintendents was held at the Brooklawn CC, Bridgeport, Conn. Officers elected for the coming year were: Don McKay, Sunset Ridge CC, pres.; Charlie Bashin, Waterbury, CC, v.p.; Charles Traverse, Mill River CC, secy-treas.; A. Lentine, Wallingford CC, ass't. secy-treas.

More than 60 members and guests attended the dinner and meeting afterward which had among the guest speakers, Henry Cliffe, Supt. of Parks, Bridgeport; E. F. Morgan, Conn. Experiment Station, New Haven; E. E. Evaul, Rutgers college, and John Monteith, Jr., USGA Green Section.

Approximately 25 members of the Connecticut Assn. attended the Golf Show held at Amherst college and put on display a miniature tool-house and equipment as their part of the show.

The Fungus and How It Works

By E. KLAUCKE

FUNGI, members of the plant kingdom, are composed largely of thread-like cells joined end-to-end, called hyphae. They reproduce by thousands of small "seed-like" bodies called spores. Because they lack the green coloring matter necessary to food manufacture, fungi must obtain their food from another source.

Fungi that obtain their food supply from other living plants or from living animals are known as parasites. In order to grow and reproduce, fungi require moisture, air and certain temperature conditions besides an available food supply.

A blade of grass may become sick and die from a fungus parasite in the following way:

A spore of the parasite is blown onto the grass blade.

Given the proper temperature and moisture conditions, it germinates and produces a young thread or hypha.

On both sides of the grass blade are numerous small pores. The young hypha enters one of the pores.

It then secretes a substance that dis-