

# HERE'S SOME MORE ABOUT EZRA

**TEACHERS' COLLEGE  
OF GOLF BADLY  
NEEDED BY PROS**

By W. C. JACKSON

I READ in GOLFDOM not very long ago an article by Johnny Takach, entitled, "Ezra Applesauce," and a reply by C. V. Anderson, which I think has started something. However, I don't agree with either article in entirety. In the first place, we will admit the premise that golf instruction is a science. In order to teach a science—or anything—for that matter, you have to know how to teach as well as to know your subject.

I agree heartily with Myles Coen who wrote that one has to know human nature; that a large part of teaching is psychological. But when one condemns an amateur who reaches the finals in a state championship and accepts a position as a professional immediately afterwards, as a bad teacher, you may be wrong. He might have been a teacher—of anything—before that time. And if he reaches the finals of a state championship, he may have practiced or played the game sufficiently to be a good teacher of golf.

There are plenty of people, professionals and otherwise, who know enough about the game to teach it but lack the ability to teach. Let us take for example, Eugene Grace, president of the Bethlehem Steel Co. He applies the principles of economics in the manufacture of steel and he knows a lot about economics. Is he necessarily qualified to be the Professor of Economics at Yale university? Not unless he has been taught to be a teacher.

There is a professional who is one of the oldest in the country. He has served

The case of Ezra Applesauce, farm hand who turned part of his pappy's roadside acreage into a driving range, hung up a sign "Ezra Applesauce, Pro," and thus became a pro, obviously stirred pro thought on both sides of the Atlantic.

Ezra's brief history first was printed in January GOLFDOM. Since then there have been several comments on Pro Applesauce received and printed by GOLFDOM.

Now comes W. C. Jackson, pro-supt. at Camargo club, the swanky establishment in the Cincinnati district, with a suggestion springing from Johnny Takach's tale of Ezra, the overnight pro.

And from "Golfing" of London, an authority in British golf, comes an article by N. B. Laikeley, headed "Doctors and Quacks—A Test for Golf Instructors." Looks like Ezra started something.

all the apprenticeships there are to serve, plays a magnificent game of golf, has a fine job and runs his golf shop in the most efficient manner. Yet he can't teach for sour apples—and never will!

Coen brings up the point that professionals are made overnight from farm boys, caddies and what not. What qualifies them to be golf teachers? Nothing. Their minds have not been developed analytically. They have never been taught the fluency of language needed for a simplified expression of their thoughts. But neither have the apprentices or assistants, who have put in a number of years in a golf shop.

What is the solution? Frankly, you have me stumped there.

**Says PGA Is  
Trade Association**

Assuming again that golf is a science, the PGA in its present structure, is not an organization for the furtherance of a science. It functions more as a trade organization, stressing the sale of goods. And with the help of GOLFDOM, I must admit that it is bearing fruit along that line.

On the other hand, doctors of medicine—who are students of science—have an organization, hold conventions and clinics, and devote the entire time to the study of the practice of medicine—not to the sale of it.

Our solution would be a Teacher's College of Golf. If the PGA would start a fund for such an institution, however

small, it would be a step in the right direction. While at first such a school might be able to graduate only a few, gradually the golf clubs of the country would have enough confidence in the work, that men sent them from this college would be preferred as competent teachers. The prestige of the PGA would rise beyond all present hope, and take its rightful place in the golf development in this country. Clubs would be protected against unqualified pro performance.

Only until then can the PGA do much to better itself. At present, if you serve an apprenticeship for so many years in a golf shop under a recognized professional, you can become a member of the PGA, and qualified as an instructor. Not enough. You might spend forty years in a golf shop and never be a competent instructor.

I hope this starts a constructive argument, and I am willing to help any movement in the right direction. I am a member of the PGA; I am a college graduate; I was also an "Ezra Applesauce." But I am also egotistical enough to believe that I am a good teacher and duly qualified to enter this argument.

## DOCTORS and QUACKS

### A Test for Golf Instructors

By N. B. LAIKELEY

(In "Golfing", London)

**T**HERE are too many quack doctors about,' said J. H. Taylor a year or two ago, in discussing the defects of present-day golf teaching, and he put forward a proposal that a board of examiners should be set up, preferably under the auspices of the PGA, to issue diplomas only to those who could satisfy the examiners that they knew the job thoroughly. It still seems to me an excellent suggestion, because at the present time professional golf teaching is nothing like as good as it ought to be.

The problem is stated from the American viewpoint in a recent issue of *GOLFDOM* by Johnny Takach, the professional at the Blackheath Country Club. 'Ezra Applesauce's paw's farm is on the main highway at the edge of town. Ezra's done a little caddying. Farming doesn't make enough money for Ezra. So he mows a spot in the front 40, sets up distance markers, builds some tees, and has himself a practice range.

'Ezra puts up a sign: "Ezra Apple-

sauce, Golf Pro.'" Why shouldn't the suckers believe it? Ezra does. Golfers and fishermen are much alike. They'll try any kind of bait and if it catches a fish now and then they don't stop to think that they might be doing a lot better.

'Most golfers will accept playing advice from practically anyone, and if he's lucky enough to hit one straight long ball right after getting the advice he stays "sold"—for a time. That's what sets Ezra Applesauce up in business as a pro. Ezra may meet a golf club member or official who's strong in a club political situation and before long Ez is a pro at a golf club with widened opportunity for fooling ignorantly with the games of hopeful golfers.'

### Few Pros Will Guarantee Results

Hundreds of golfers would be willing to pay handsomely for instruction in the game if they could find a teacher who would guarantee results. But how many golf professionals would care to allow their remuneration for lessons to be based on the extent to which they brought their pupils' handicaps down? In China, I am told, physicians are paid on the logical plan of receiving a stipend from each patient so long as he remains in good health, but as soon as he falls ill they are docked of their fees until they make him well again. The golf doctor, however, would fare rather badly under a similar arrangement, for most of his patients would be in the chronic condition of being 'off' what they are pleased to call their game!

There is no doubt that golf professionals both in America and the Continent make far more money from teaching than they do here, and I am afraid the reason is simply that in America and the Continent the pros make a more careful study of teaching. On this side of the Atlantic a tremendous amount of harm has been done by the universal acceptance of the idea that if a professional was a good player he must as a matter of course also be a good teacher. Such a claim contains an obvious fallacy, since it is clear that a man may know everything about the golf swing and yet know nothing about teaching, even as some caddies, of whom we have all had experience, seem to know everything about golf and nothing whatever about caddying. If the Professional Golfers' Association would embark upon some