

BETTER CHECK UP: IS YOUR LOCKER-ROOM A STY?

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YOUR clubhouse is only as good as your locker-room. And about half the golf clubs have so much opportunity for vast improvement, at little expense, in the locker-rooms that club officials ought to resolve to do something drastic about this major fault before the 1938 season dawns.

In most cases the locker-room is the social center of the club, yet in far too many cases it is dark, damp and ill-kept. Some shortcomings of locker-rooms are architectural. They're cramped, poorly-ventilated and gloomy. Without 110-proof spiritual uplift the membership would become morbid and chronically complaining, directly as the result of the dismal atmosphere of the place where in the clubhouse golf is begun and ended.

Note how the leading clubs keep their locker-rooms. Walls are light. Floors are immaculate. Insides of lockers are dusted—an especially important point now that so many men are wearing white clothes in the summer. Floor runners are clean and in perfect repair. There is a goodly array of toilet articles in the bath and lavatory rooms. Combs and brushes are kept clean. Bath sandals—either wood, paper or rubber—are supplied. Towels and sandals are kept picked up. Drink trays are not left lying about. Wastebaskets, cuspidors and ash receptacles are supplied. Paint is freely used; and paint of a cheerful color. Lighting fixtures have adequate light instead of dull yellow gleams. Attendants have clean uniforms.

What a Contrast!

Contrast those points of first class locker-room operation with the locker-rooms at other clubs and first of all you'll note that the difference between good locker-rooms and sloppy, unattractive locker-rooms is not one that can be alibied by lack of cash. In many cases, especially at clubs outside metropolitan districts, less than \$200 would transform sties into locker-rooms of attractive character.

At the base of the locker-room defects seems to be neglect. There is too general a tendency, outside of the top ranking clubs, to hire almost anyone as a locker-room attendant and then devote no time at all to the training and supervision of that

employee. The experienced locker-room attendant has a hard enough time handling his duties because his job is one with heavy rush periods, requiring foresighted organization. The attendant who hasn't "been around" and seen what is done at the better clubs, simply hasn't a chance.

It must be remembered that the inexperienced locker-room attendant doesn't come from a place in the social scale that has permitted him many opportunities to observe details of ritzy club operation. So, in that matter, blame attaches to the club officials and manager for failure to educate the attendant and to supervise the work until maintenance of a high standard of cleanliness, speed and thoroughness becomes a habit.

It Costs So Little to Tidy Things Up

In the bath departments and toilets a visitor too often sees conditions of unpardonable and amazing neglect. Duck boards in showers are so greasy they are positively dangerous as well as extremely unsanitary. It wouldn't cost much to have those boards cleaned and painted with waterproof paint. It isn't a prohibitive expense in most cases to have sponge rubber or other rubber mats put into the shower stalls.

Then there are the shower heads. In club after club one finds worn out, outmoded or clogged nozzles attempting to deliver satisfactory bathing facilities. Too often the members themselves fail to realize how inadequate their showers are.

Cost of new shower heads is negligible, and any attendant with a pipe wrench can do the installing.

Likewise, it is puzzling to understand why our golfers put up with the sort of shower regulators one meets—regulators that alternately scald and freeze the bather, or that have to be adjusted like the combination on a safe to achieve the proper water temperature. If the shower

is "the best part of the game," surely it is smart club operation to go the limit in providing shower comfort.

The showers themselves should be cleaned often. During the winter there should be a general overhauling of showers, lavatories and toilets. Paint and antiseptics should be applied lavishly. Why architects have muffed the problem of golf club shower departments so badly no one can answer, but it is a certainty that in the majority of the nation's country club shower rooms there is need of installing ventilating fans. As the rooms now are there is a soggy, steamy atmosphere in the rooms that almost immediately offsets the comfort and benefit of the shower. This humidity sweeps out into the adjacent locker-room, making it decidedly unpleasant.

Towel supplies in many locker-rooms are left pretty much on a catch-as-catch-can basis. There are not nearly enough of the antiseptic footbath trays in shower departments. The prevalence and seriousness of athlete's foot disease surely warrants preventive facilities in each good club's bath department. Paper bath slippers, for example, should always be supplied. Even though the members all have their own slippers, the comfort of guests must be met.

Cracked mirrors, or mirror frames with the paint flaked off, are seen in the lavatories of many clubs that boast of the class of their membership. Talcum powder, safety razors with replacement blades available, shaving cream, sunburn preventives and remedies, hair tonic, after shaving preparations, liniment, antiseptics, etc., don't cost much but they do a tremendous job in making the club lavatory look like the club belongs to gentlemen.

Brighten Up the Dungeon

Locker-room benches and chairs should be kept in attractive condition even though they do get hard use. A carpet sweeper or vacuum cleaner run along at least the floor runners a few times when the afternoon rush is in progress will do a lot to keep the place looking clean and to preserve the floor covering.

At many clubs there is great need for architectural revision that will provide more windows. The solid glass blocks now being widely used in building provide the answer to numerous locker-room demands for more light and cheerfulness. Bright-colored drapes sometimes help dress up a locker-room. Somebody, years ago, must

have had the idea a locker-room should be finished in drab colors so it would conceal dirt. That hunch has been responsible for the dungeon-look that makes so many locker-rooms actually depressing. What really is needed is bright colors to make dirt easy to find and remove.

The lockers themselves have gone through a marvelous development as a result of the work of the locker manufacturers, and not because of any general encouragement from clubs. Clubs will bargain and drive down to the last cent on locker purchases. One of the biggest bargains now available in clubhouse equipment is modern lockers. Prospects are for a decided hike in locker prices so the club that contemplates getting modernized in this respect had better do its shopping right now.

In some of the older and smaller clubhouses where there still are wood lockers with wire-netting fronts, it is amazing to see how badly repairs and paint are needed. There are plenty of reasons for a brightening-up when painting of these antique lockers is done, but it seems that some guy with a brush is merely told to go ahead, and club officials invariably overlook opportunities to make the lockers and locker-rooms cheerful and distinctive.

Bars, due to the enthusiasm with which repeal was welcomed at golf clubs, generally are the most modern features of the locker-room area. However, there are plenty of make-shifts that are wasteful, untidy and inadequate. That part of the equipment can stand an expert appraisal at the end of the season so any of its shortcomings can be corrected.

If you want to surprise and delight your membership when 1938 comes around, devote plenty of time and expert attention to your locker, shower, lavatory, toilet and bar arrangements in trying to bring them up closer to the standards of the leading metropolitan clubs. Most of the time in such an improvement campaign you can get by with more use of brains and judgment than of high finance, so the enterprise is one that need not cramp your budget.

Club Workers Have Their Day—Mohawk CC (Chicago district) devotes one late-season Monday a year to an employees' party. All employees, except caddies, take part in the golf events and an evening dinner for which outside service is engaged. A Mohawk waitress, making her golf debut last year, scored 278!