

Recreation Needs MEN

Today's trends call for future leaders with both practical and academic training

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THERE are many who feel that golf and associated sports have hardly begun to assume their proper place in the program of national recreation. Why should it not be possible for 10 or 20 times as many people to play golf as now enjoy the game? Is there any other sport which can be enjoyed by young and old with so much benefit to all? Lack of time in our present day scheme of life is certainly no barrier to this enlarged development of golf. The principal limitations are lack of golf courses, and the expense. I believe that the solution of these temporary obstacles lies almost wholly in the hands of the course superintendent. How well is he equipped to develop these larger opportunities?

In the old days a would-be greenkeeper usually spent a long apprenticeship on some golf course learning the secrets of turf culture by the hard road of trial and error, success and failure, with such aid as he might receive from the foreman or greenkeeper. As greenkeeper he found that not only was he expected to know the fundamentals of turf culture, but that he must also know how to handle men; he must apply some satisfactory method of keeping detailed records on expenditures; he must know what supplies and equipment are actually needed, and where and how to buy them most effectively, and most important of all, he must know how

to deal with the players of all types and moods who patronize the golf course.

You present-day superintendents have gone far in correcting and overcoming the hazards of the profession. During the last 20 years, there has been a rapidly increasing number of greenkeepers who organized associations and societies for the exchange of information. You have requested and supported short courses and schools conducted by the universities and agricultural colleges. You have attended field meetings and demonstrations on experiments with turf grasses and on the latest developments in machinery and equipment. You have established certain ethical standards as to what a superintendent will or will not do, for the protection of your own honor and the integrity of the profession in its service to the public. You require certain minimum standards of training and ability as a prerequisite for membership in your national and local organizations. You make an effort to keep abreast of the latest scientific discoveries and their application to golf course maintenance. In short, you are gradually emerging from the status of a trade into that of a profession. The full fledged development of that profession depends on the provisions you make for the future, and your vision as to what might be done.

Will you seek as your field, the providing of recreation to a limited few on a luxury basis, or will you undertake to

*GSA Convention Paper.



1940 class of the Massachusetts State College winter school for greenkeepers is shown in the photo above. Many of the class, which, incidentally, is larger than last year's group, attended the National Greenkeepers convention in New York City during February. Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson, MSC Agronomy Dept., is the founder and director of the course. He is shown at extreme right, third row. Second half of the MSC two-term course will be concluded March 15.