

and onto the grass and whack around the course for a while they're much more inclined to give the other fellow a break and keep united behind the kids who are being killed to save them.

Wartime golf in California has met its challenge. Its victory in demonstrating unsuspected strength and value to a nation that must be put and kept at the physical and temperamental peek has given California pros the profound belief that they're also very much in the business of helping to win the war. Being in that business, they have to—and are—working harder and more effectively than they ever did before in their lives.

Aussie Golf Paper Completes Its Twenty-first Year

★ Congratulations to *Golf in Australia* which completed 21 years of publication with its issue of January 15, 1944. The magazine is down to 10 pages and cover now, the smallest size in its history. Like *GOLFDOM*, *Golf in Australia* is restricted by paper shortage and advertising reductions. But it carries on aggressively and confidently, presenting a highly interesting publication.

Golf in Australia has been very active in marshalling the hospitable Australian golfers to extend welcome to their courses to American servicemen. The cordiality of that welcome is attested to by letters from American fighters who have been made to feel very much at home by their Australian hosts.

To C. A. Shepherd and Jack Dillon, particularly of *Golf in Australia's* staff, American golfers want to send word that none of us ever overlook a chance to repay them and their fellow Australians for their courtesies to our fellows. Our hearts, hands, homes and clubs welcome the Anzacs when they're visitors in this land.

"Golf Club As a Business" Second May Booklet

★ Retain directors for at least five years unless they fail in performance, is advice given to clubs in the second booklet of George S. May's American Golf Foundation.

Set up an organization chart definitely fixing responsibility for all directors, officers and club employees, operate the club as many months of the year as possible, and sell limited classes of memberships restricting days of play and other club privileges, the Foundation's latest brochure also recommends. Financing recommendations are given, too. A copy of the booklet will be sent to club officials or directors free on application to American Golf Foundation, 2600 North Shore ave., Chicago.

Watch Layering, Fertilizer Excess in Topdressing

★ GREENS ARE TOPDRESSED primarily for three general reasons,—to keep the grass growing in a healthy, vigorous condition; to create a true putting surface; and to provide a surface sufficiently resilient to hold a pitched ball. To keep grass growing well there must be continuous soil connections between the growing grass on the playing surface and the soil and subsoil of the green.

Such connections are necessary in order that water falling on the green may penetrate well down into the soil and in turn be drawn up by capillary attraction to the roots of the grass plants as the surface is dried out.

Layers of any materials such as organic matter arising from matted turf, sand, clay, peat, or muck, break these soil connections and therefore interfere with the normal movement of water up and down in the soil.

Material applied to the surface of the green as a topdressing should be of the consistency of sandy loam and should be well brushed or if necessary spiked into the turf to maintain a good soil connection between the surface and the soil beneath. The application of pure materials such as sand, peat, muck, or the like, should be avoided. When they are needed to improve the soil texture of the green they should be mixed in the compost with soil to give the topdressing the consistency of sandy loam. The consistency of topdressing material used in successive applications should be as nearly constant as possible over long periods of time.

Layers also result when heavy applications of topdressing are made on matted turf without first removing the mat of excess stolons and leaves by vigorous and repeated rakings and mowing. The topdressing cannot be worked down into such dense growth and therefore covers the mat like a blanket, resulting in the formation of a layer of organic material which interferes with the penetration of water into the soil.

The acidity of the topdressing material should be determined and properly adjusted if too acid. Where coastal sand is used it should be made certain that it does not contain enough salt to be toxic. Also the material should be composted long enough or with enough of a nitrogen carrier to kill the weed seed. If fertilizer is to be applied at the same time it can be incorporated in the topdressing before it is applied in order to reduce the number of operations. However, over-fertilizing should be avoided. In planning the fertilizer program, therefore, the fertilizer content of the compost should be taken into consideration before additional fertilizer is applied.—*USGA Turf Topics.*