

## Longworth and Pupil Meet Tough Challenge

★ Dewey Longworth has a pupil he's dreaming of making one of golf's greatest.

Dewey has taught many of them who became very good, but this six-year-old now under the tutelage of the Claremont CC at Oakland, Calif., is one who may win the highest victory of any of the stars.

The youngster is Bobby Libby whose home adjoins the seventh fairway of the Claremont club. Bobby used to lie in bed and watch the golfers but there was no fun in it for him. He had polio.

Infantile paralysis had halted the development of the lad's right arm and hand. Day and night he wore a brace on his right arm.

A year and a half ago Bobby wandered to the practice tee at Claremont and



Dewey Longworth, pro at Claremont CC., and his stout hearted pupil, Bobby Libby.

watched Dewey giving lessons. When the tee was vacant he'd timidly essay a few swings himself with an old right-handed driver he'd acquired. Bobby was swinging lefthanded and trying to hit the ball with the back of his club.

Dewey probably has given \$20,000 worth of lesson time free to kids, having been in 1918 a pioneer in juvenile class lessons and always warmly enthusiastic in encouraging kid talent. Probably the cash estimate of Longworth's services in this field shouldn't be mentioned. He says he's had a million dollars worth of satisfaction introducing kids to golf and establishing their games on a sound basis.

When he saw the awkward swing of the Libby kid Dewey walked over to get the boy straightened out.

"Turn around and swing it this way," suggested Longworth, taking an easy slash at the grass.

"I can't," the little redheaded boy said.

"Why not?" asked Dewey.

"I got infantile," the youngster answered.

Dewey gulped but bounced back. "Well, let's see what we can do to get you hitting the ball a mile," he said.

The two of them went into Dewey's shop where Longworth cut down a lightweight lefthanded spoon. With that club they've been working together steadily. Bobby passes Dewey's shop walking to and from school. Each time he passes he takes some swing and Dewey adjusts and encourages the lad. This lesson procedure has become a major item in Longworth's schedule at Claremont and the club has become keenly interested in this determination of the doughty kid to beat the toughest challenge ever thrown at a sportsman with a fighting heart.

Now Bobby is able to swing without the brace. It took a lot of practice before he could discard the harness and step up to the ball and smack it 65 yards or so consistently down the middle. How many thousands of golfers Longworth has taught he won't even hazard a guess, but this Libby kid he says is going to be his prize exhibit and more than reward him for the headaches a fellow is bound to have in a long and lively career as a teaching and playing pro.

Longworth recalls that Frank Hixon, one of California's star amateurs, was a childhood polio victim and took up golf in conquering the blight of the dread affliction. Bobby Libby, Dewey is confident, someday will be one of the state's better golfers and then, as now, one of the swellest kids of whom the game has valid license to boast.

## Purdue Short Course Has More Experts

★ INDIANA Greenkeepers short course to be held at Purdue university, West Lafayette, Ind., Feb. 26-27-28, will present on an excellent practical program some national authorities new to the Purdue short course. Dr. Fred Grau, Penn. State college; Dr. George Hoffer, American Potash Corp.; Dr. F. F. Davis, USGA Green section; Dr. George Decker, University of Illinois; Prof. F. L. Serviss, School of Chemical Engineering, Purdue, are newcomers scheduled on the Purdue program.

Drs. Scarseth, Mott, Noer, Lee, Lehker and Enfield, who previously have contributed greatly to the value of the Purdue short courses, again will appear.