

take the pupil to the tee cold. We discussed the background and foundation of the game while I was looking for angles to which the pupil would be most responsive. I got talking about the driving machine and found the pupil intensely interested. He was an engineer. So, with the driving machine idea in mind as the model, this pupil put the picture of the swing into his mind.

"Where I think we pros can change our general teaching policy in saving time is in encouraging the pupils to get an idea of the ABC of the game from instruction books. We've spent 30 years or more arguing over the ABCs of golf and I think we'd better put an end to the controversy and agree publicly on the simple starting points. I've found that by selling Nelson's book at my shop and helping my pupils correctly interpret it I've enlarged their understanding and given myself a more responsive field for my teaching.

"We might as well admit that we can't avoid being somewhat puzzled by the mechanics of the finer details of the swing. That is inevitable. It is a spur to progress. We must remember that it took Nelson about 6 years to rebuild his game, and Hogan 3 years for an overhauling of his game. Yet we, as pros, have the work of rebuilding the game of many of those who come to us and expect great results in a few weeks. Because of that we are restricted much of the time to implanting deeply just a few fundamentals so the pupil can go a good part of the rest of the way himself.

"I have learned a lot about playing and teaching golf by playing with my worst-scoring pupils. I wondered why they kept at it. They were responsibilities of mine because they are my friends and I want them to enjoy golf to the fullest. I found that they considered golf on a relative basis. The 85 shooter among men of 45 or over is a big shot in his group of businessmen, and he is justifiably so considering the comparatively little time he has to play. What pros can do to improve his score is one of their challenging jobs. He may be so set in his possibly peculiar but effective manner of hitting the ball that suggestions of changing his unorthodox style may be dangerous.

"Every Friday afternoon I keep free for playing with my pupils. It is not a paying session in cash. The pupil I invite arranges the rest of the foursome or, if he wishes, I'll do it. If the players ask for advice about making a shot I'm glad to give it. Sometimes, when I can do it discreetly without interjecting any note that may make a man conscious of an instruction rather than a primarily pleasure angle to the game, I will make a suggestion about his swing.

"The strictly golf swing part of our teaching is not the most difficult part of our job. But the matter of adjusting our personalities to those of our pupils is the study that never will end for the pro."

"So you think that at this stage of the PGA campaign to raise the general level of pro instruction it might be wise to put more accent on the psychology of instruction instead of dealing almost altogether with the swing mechanics?" I asked.

"I definitely do," the veteran declared. "Look around and you'll see that the best golf teachers are pretty smart psychologists rather than experts in mechanics."

## PGA SIGNS CORCORAN AND MOORE

Fred Corcoran's contract as tournament bureau mgr. of the PGA was renewed for 3 years at a PGA executive committee meeting held during the pro association's championship at Portland. Corcoran now handles the interests of Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox star. Corcoran will make his headquarters in New York and continue making high spots on the tourna-



Gerry Moore

ment circuit which has become a big money and complicated problem since the great development of the tournaments during his administration as bureau chief. Gerry Moore, late of the Boston Globe, treas., Boston Chapter of the Baseball Writers Assn., and formerly golf writer for the Globe, has been engaged by the PGA as Corcoran's assistant and will make all tournaments. The tournament bureau, with Corcoran and Moore both on the job, plans expansion of publicity and other services that were beyond the capacity of any one man.