

The point can be made that you subtract in order to build up. You subtract from head movement, foot action, and wrist play in order to build up more swing of arm, hand, and club.

When to Teach the Grip

I have been carrying out a group experiment on the grip. The general idea is to get novices swinging before one puts the pressure on them for complete grip development. No definite conclusions are possible but the experiment may point up an alternate way of introducing the grip in golf instruction.

For some time there has been brewing in my mind this question of the grip as it pertained to beginners in golf classes. Should the grip be taught at the outset? Should one place the pupil's backhand on the club saying little about the rest of the grip, mainly demonstrating it? Then, after a considerable period of drilling and swing development when the pupil has gotten into the swing of things, really put the screws on and emphasize the placement of the hands on the club?

When the subject of the grip was brought up in golf classes right at the outset, it seemed to be the greatest single deterrent to progress which could be introduced. Everything stopped as the various class members fumbled, usually unsuccessfully, with their hands and fingers. The placement of the hands seemed for the moment to deteriorate as awkwardness took over. Not much progress in hand placement was made and there was

danger of losing the interest and confidence of the class.

Now with either an individual or a class one can't rush matters and try for too rapid development. Many things concerning the hitting of a golf ball with a club have to be thought over, to be allowed to sink in, to be tried over and over. Golfing thoughts and sensations flash rapidly through an experienced player's mind. But people learning golf appreciate not being rushed. On the other hand, there is a need to progress, to show improvement and to satisfy the would-be golfers' urge to swing and sock the ball.

The assumption on which I have been working is that broad outline movement, stimulation, and action come before grip detail. A golf swing can be regarded as essentially movement which develops into a whirling swishing blow. The swinging move is probably the most essential part of the whole business.

The formula might be stated: Get a golf pupil moving, get him swinging, get him underway before you introduce swing points by details and before you stress positions as differentiated from movement. In the beginning, it seems, something can be lost by introducing detail and position as opposed to muscle flow and rhythmic swing motion.

This is a policy I have adopted and it works reasonably well. I know that purists who believe in starting with the grip

(Continued on page 68)

BIGGEST GOLF MEETING



More than 1000 golfers of Ontario and neighboring U.S. points attended third annual golf rally of Ontario GA, Royal York hotel, Toronto. Gordon F. Stevens, pres., Ontario GA, Charles S. Watson, and R. D. Young, past presidents; Mildred Zaharias and Jack Redmond were program headliners as were C. Ross Somerville, Canada's top amateur of past 50 years, and Nick Weslock of Essex G&CC, Windsor, Canada's current No. 1 golfer.