



### BALTIMORE'S MOUNT PLEASANT CHARMING TEST

Baltimore's Mount Pleasant public course where the Eastern Open is held each year and where the National Public Links championship was played in 1939 is rated by many tourney stars as the nation's most beautiful municipal course.

Above illustration shows the 140 yd. 6th hole and to the right on the tee is C. A. (Gus) Hook, supt. of Baltimore parks who started to build the course in 1932, using WPA labor. Gus was a sharpshooting amateur who'd made a study of golf architecture. He began park work with the Forestry division of the Baltimore park board in 1913. That background shows in the 4500 trees planted to combine beauty and golf architecture on the course.

The Mount Pleasant course reflects excellent construction advice from members of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Supts.' Assn. Gus got much help from his fellow members when the job was under construction and during its maintenance. Bob Scott, veteran supt. of Baltimore CC courses, has been Gus' particular buddy and consulting genius.

Baltimore Sun's Sunday magazine section ran a big illustrated feature on the course telling of its history and features and referring to effective use Gus made of his turf colleagues' cooperation in providing Baltimore with a prize exhibit among municipal courses.

tervals it is interrupted by desiccation during warm daytime periods. Desiccation results in destruction of most of the microorganisms, leaving relatively small numbers of survivors. When the organic matter becomes wet again there is a lag period of reestablishment of the microorganisms before decomposition again becomes active. The appearance of the cottony webs of fungi causing brown patch and other evidences of fungus attack of grass in period of high humidity and their disappearance in dry weather illustrate the effects of moisture on the cyclic development of microorganisms.

#### Conditions Favorable for Decomposition

The conditions favoring rapid decomposition of organic matter can be briefly summarized as follows: The organic matter should be inherently readily decomposable; there should be an abun-

dance of nitrogen and other elements required by the microorganisms either in the organic matter or added as fertilizer salts; the reaction should be close to neutrality; there should be good aeration and high temperature, and the moisture content should be continuously high. Most of these factors can be controlled somewhat in turf.

#### FACTORS CONCERNED IN THE CONTROL OF THATCH

One may be inclined to search for a simple means of eliminating thatch, such as inoculation with microorganisms able to rapidly decompose the plant residues, or the use of chemicals that would destroy the thatch. There is no reason, however, to believe that the problem can be solved in either of these ways. It is unlikely that inoculation with microorganisms of any kind will accelerate decomposition.