

He said that too much stress on perfection of responses frequently defeats the purpose of instruction.

Every learning is a matter of organization and the effective pro teacher's task is to appraise the body make-up of the pupil and his background of motor skills, then teach in such a way that the pupil can organize the instruction received and work it into his own game, Dr. Anderson asserted. With enough interest and reward a pupil can teach himself almost anything, Anderson reminded the pros.

Measure of the Teacher

Formalized instruction gives a standard from which the individual can depart or to which he can conform and the value of the pro is measured by his competent direction about the deviation, said the Minnesota professor. He said the younger pupils should have a good general pattern rather than details but that too much emphasis on a strict pattern is self-defeating.

He emphasized that a sound plan for teaching golf would be to have the pupils learn about the game prior to taking up the grip, swing and other details. It is Dr. Anderson's belief that too much pressure in the early stages of golf accounts for many merely sampling golf, then quitting the game.

Three Levels of Learning

The three levels of learning he said called for different treatment. The beginner needs a good example clearly in mind, encouragement, and an opportunity to work out some development for himself.

The pupil who has advanced to some degree and wants to improve, should have constructive, detailed advice, particularly with a simple, understandable demonstration.

This medium-scoring class of pupil should be guided to be alive in all senses to recognize the sensation of properly hitting a shot. "Motor control" isn't too difficult when the pupil has acquired the necessary feel. Anderson said that one way to cure hooking, slicing or other bad golf habits is to deliberately practice them so the feel in muscles and skin of these faults can be distinguished from the feel of a well hit shot.

He stressed teaching proper sequence of major elements, and developing rhythm, at this stage of learning.

Breaking Bad Habits

In teaching the rather expert golfer Anderson advised breaking up the bad habit that is causing the fault, even by

teaching a compensating error for a relatively short period. Then, when the erroneous routine is disturbed, get the fellow on a new start.

Experts' Feelings Vary

The fundamental difference between the novice and the advanced pupil, from the teacher's viewpoint, is that the novice doesn't know what to do, while the advanced pupil whose feelings and responses vary from time to time doesn't become aware of variations in his methods but can correct himself when he learns what deviations from his normally sound routine have occurred.

Anderson, looking at golf from a scientist's viewpoint, pronounced it a game requiring extraordinarily complicated skill for low scoring. The teaching problem is "extraordinarily complicated" too because it demands building up in the pupil "sensitivity and perceptivity of what's going on."

Urges Scientific Attitude

The day-long teaching session concluded with an address by David Lilly, chmn., Golf committee, Somerset CC, St. Paul, director of the Western GA, and pres., Toro Mfg. Co. Lilly spoke on "The Amateur Viewpoint of Professional Teaching."

He urged that the scientific attitude in evidence at the teaching session be made paramount in pro golf instruction. He told what development of the scientific attitude had done in promoting the interests of golf course superintendents and in improving golf courses.

The Lilly talk, by an adept amateur golfer who's taken many lessons and been around in golf, amounted to pretty nearly a statement of policy for the progressive golf instructors.

It will appear in full in a later issue of *GOLFDOM*.

American Society of Golf Course Architects to Meet

American Society of Golf Course Architects will hold its annual meeting at the Belleview-Biltmore hotel, Belleair, Fla., during the week of Jan. 10.

Annual Southeastern Turf Conference will be held April 5-6 at Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, Ga. Masters' tournament at Augusta is April 7, 8, 9, so both events may be fitted into schedules.