



GREEN SECTION EXPERTS INSPECT GREENBRIER

Fine condition of three courses at The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., is a profitable factor in drawing big business to the famed old resort. Greenbrier Supt. Walter Cosby makes effective use of the advice of other experts in keeping the courses in top shape. At this conference are (L to R): Gary Nixon, Greenbrier's resident pro; W. H. Bengueyfield, USGA Green Section agronomist recently appointed Western Director of Green Section; Cosby, Greenbrier's supt. of golf and grounds; and Alex M. Radko, Green Section Northeastern Director.

Take Another Look, Analyse Maintenance Routine

By SAMUEL S. MITCHELL

ONE who is responsible for golf course maintenance learns to study trouble. He learns to prevent it, if possible and when nature overrules him, to learn what he can from disaster.

Last year we lived through two hurricanes. The first one blew us flat on our backs. The second one tried to float us into the sea.

As we cleared away the wreckage and were getting the course into condition again, I reflected on the lessons of the state of emergency that we had survived.

One reaction I had was that routine operations we had felt were absolutely necessary not performed during the emergency, still we are rolling along. That jar reminded me that possibly we should analyse more often the value and necessity of various routines in turf maintenance.

This analytical check-up on our work, along with use of good conservative common sense should produce good turf, a happy golfers membership and peace of mind for the superintendent. While we shouldn't neglect the fundamentals of fertilization, irrigation, aerification, insect and disease control, we shouldn't allow them to become merely routine and overdo them.

I feel that attendance at superinten-

dents' meetings does more to pull a man out of a rut into which he may slide and awaken him from complacency, than anything else he can do. Off-hand it is not easy to recall any one specific idea picked up at an association meeting but I do know that my time has been well spent at every meeting of our Greenkeepers' Club of New England and every other gathering of superintendents I've attended.

At the outdoor meetings some little thing will hit you and you say to yourself "This man is doing a better job than I am on . . . maybe, greens, fairways, tees, or traps." Or perhaps his clubhouse grounds are particularly attractive, or his service building may be extra neat, or his equipment may show results of careful, expert maintenance. Any of these observations will serve as a prod to do a better job at home.

On the other side of the picture perhaps some phase of our job has us down and when we find that others also are having a battle we are encouraged to keep with it, stay in slugging and exchange ideas until we come up with the answer.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Turn to page 142—and make sure your active operating heads receive GOLFDOM throughout 1956