

course maintenance problems that were handled by near-miracles performed by superintendents. Many of the New England maintenance problems could be solved by modernizing course construction and with use of the improved types of grass but the golfers hesitate to allot time from course use for this work although the modernizing undoubtedly would be economical in the long run, as well as elevating the pleasure of play. Informed chairmen and superintendents estimate that increased costs of supplies and machinery and the necessity of raising wages to get and keep labor that has desirable efficiency, intelligence and reliability, will account for about a 25 per cent increase in 1956 budgets.

GEORGE RAMSDEN, supt., Shaker Ridge CC, Loudonville, N. Y. — Extreme heat and drought resulted in passing out of many grasses, especially around greens collars and tees. Terrific influx of weeds. Melting out of greens in afternoons was prevented only by hand watering. Fortunately we've advanced in correcting compaction by aeration, in better control of fungus disease and in weed and crabgrass control, and with some improved grass strains, or most courses last summer would have been in horrible shape. We still are learning about handling greens under extreme conditions, about watering and weed control but certainly showed last summer the value of the knowledge we have acquired. We may be in for a bad weather cycle and to strengthen courses as well as to meet increased costs of men and material are going to have to get higher budgets for 1956.

JAMES E. THOMAS, supt., Army Navy CC, Arlington, Va. — After the Fourth of July weather troubles hit courses in this area hard. In September the courses started to recover. Where air and water drainage was good the damage was minimized. Water management of the right sort paid big dividends. Turf research possibly justified its expense for the past five or six years by its application this summer. Without what we've learned in recent years about turf management the summer probably would have meant widespread and costly loss of turf. Most of the damage was kept restricted and temporary. Reconstruction for more machine maintenance is necessary at many courses. Larger tees are required for heavier play. The increase in play alone would call for budget increases, even if machinery, supplies and labor costs would remain the

same next year as this — which they won't.

L. GALLET, supt., Claremont CC, Oakland, Calif. — This district's courses were in remarkably good condition this year, partially due to fairly favorable weather conditions and, we can say for our brother superintendents, sound and resourceful management practices. A great deal of our basic troubles seems to have been eliminated by making aerifying of greens and fairways a standard operating procedure of modern maintenance. Verti-cutting greens also has become common and has eliminated grain as well as dangerous thatch.

MIKE BONAVIDA, supt., Cypress Grove CC, Franklin, Va. — Bent green courses suffered considerable damage in this area the past summer. Heavy rains during two hurricanes had 50 per cent of the greens in this territory under water. Heat following the floods completed the damage. Recovery, following strenuous work by superintendents and their staffs, has been amazingly good. Greens have been put in better condition to withstand trouble, by aerifying and easier application of new fertilizers. Despite the setback of bad weather we had 30 to 40 per cent more play in this area than in 1954. We're going to have to do a good deal of work on drainage as courses in this territory are in low land.

NORMAN C. JOHNSON, supt., LaGorce CC, Miami Beach, Fla. — Course condition in this area was satisfactory this summer and promises to be excellent for winter play. Much attention is being given to use of improved grasses and to chemical weed eradication.

Managers Plan Convention for Los Angeles, Jan. 18-21

Club Managers Assn. of America will hold its 29th annual convention at Hotel Ambassador, Los Angeles, Jan. 18 thru 21.

Ashton Castle, chmn, Educational committee, and C. E. Errington, chmn., General Conference committee, have queried club managers on subjects the managers consider would be most valuable as conference topics.

The scope of the suggested list of subjects to be covered by addresses and discussions includes operation, management, personnel, more effectiveness of club managers' organizations, and the manager's own problems.