

when we thought we could sit back and recuperate we were hit by two of the worst summer weeks we ever had to endure. It was enough to make strong men weep," Weiss continues, "and I saw quite a few on the verge of tears."

The Lehigh supt. goes on to say that from late August on there was a great deal of renovation carried on for the second time during the year in order to bring courses back to something like normal. "But what worries practically all of us," he adds, "is that while we may know most of the remedies, we don't know how to prevent the many troubles that hit us in 1959. As one not too cheerful supt. said, 'What if we're in a cycle of tough weather. What if we have to go through this again next year and the year after?'"

Advice From Noer

Perhaps O. J. Noer, in two articles that appeared in GOLFDOM in 1959, has some of the answers. In May (p. 29), writing of winterkill, Noer said: "When moisture and temperatures become favorable for growth, recovery should occur. There is no reason to become excited. Patience is the better approach. Recovery of established grass is apt to be as quick and more satisfactory than renovation and re-seeding. But a way must be found to impress these things on club members."

In October (p. 51), writing of summertime turf loss, Noer said: "The natural reaction in a year like this is to condemn the grass and turn to something else. This may be best for some but not necessarily for everybody. As assessment of performance and scrutiny of management practices is justified. In those places where turf survived in good shape, we may find the answers. Management in these locations may be a helpful guide to others."

This may seem to put Noer in a league with Service and Al Schardt. Only the trouble is that members don't understand or don't want to recognize that what Nature destroys in a hurry it is very slow to heal.

Work With Nature

Schardt, in fact, hints that Nature probably resists the supt's impulse to speed its healing process. "The trouble with many of us," says Al, "is that when things start to go wrong we panic. The first thing we think about is saturating the turf with fertilizer or chemicals to snap it back. I've seen more turf ruined in my 45 years through over-control than through lack of attention.

"I'm willing to work with Nature," Schardt continues. "I advocate moderate

Club Sales Up 4.4 Per Cent

Golf club sales for the fiscal year ended Oct. 31, 1959, totalled 4,412,920 units, an increase of 4.4 per cent over the comparable 1958 period. Making up the total were 3,071,349 Iron clubs and 1,341,571 Wood clubs.

In releasing the report, Carl J. Benkert, pres. of the National Assn. of Golf Club Manufacturers, said: "It has been gratifying to all manufacturers of golf equipment to note a constant increase in sales each year over a number of years. The present outlook is that increases in the sale of equipment will continue and the percentage of yearly increases will perhaps become even greater because of increased interest by the public in the game. Then, too, there are new facilities for golf being constantly added in all sections of the country."

and frequent treatments rather than heavy dosages. Fertilizers and chemicals should be used as boosters and not in the hope that they are overnight cure-alls."

More important than growth stimulators or controls, Al Bertucci opines, are the few key men a supt. has who are willing to work overtime during critical periods and are just as concerned with saving the turf as he is. "If you have fellows who will stay on in the evenings when temperatures are more favorable for mowing, fungicide spraying and watering," Bertucci notes, "your chances of at least minimizing damage are fair. Without this kind of help you are going to lose your turf in a hurry."

It Was a Nightmare

So far as 1959 is concerned, Frank P. Dunlop of Baltimore CC remembers it as a nightmare. Turf was weak after the winter's desiccation and when spring turned out to be hot and dry, recovery was further retarded. By mid-July his course was starting to come around but 23 days of hot, humid and wet weather in the last days of July and in early August completely upset the recovery schedule. Poor drainage took its toll. Dunlop had taken some steps to forestall catastrophe by installing tile drainage under greens, but this is a long range program and enough hadn't been done to avoid trouble on the large scale. Baltimore CC greens are now being overseeded with Penncross and fairways are being converted to U-3 Bermuda because it is felt that these two grasses will

(Continued on page 69)