

## Golf Books

**The Four Magic Moves to Winning Golf.** By Joe Dante and Len Elliot. Published by McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc. 330 W. 42d st. New York 36. Price \$4.95.

Dante, teaching pro at Rockaway River GC, Denville, N.J. and son of the late Jim Dante, and Len Elliott, sports editor of Newark News and one of Jersey's better Senior amateurs, have made a helpful analysis of what many of the leading players do. Joe and Len have come up with four recommendations to improve the typical golfer's game. They are:

- (1) Hold the club tight;
- (2) Cock the wrists early in the backswing;
- (3) Turn and be tense at the top of the backswing;
- (4) Slide, then turn, hips to bring yourself into position for the late hit with the hands.

There is much useful material for the instructor and pupil in this book which is not as revolutionary as the jacket blurb claims. Generally, there is a clear presentation of what to do and why and what happens. In his first book about 12 years ago, Joe Novak observed that many of the fine players cock their wrists at the beginning of the backswing. The Dante-Elliott material on "Conservation of Angular Momentum" as the explanation of the late hit may have readers a bit groggy, but in most respects the book is fine, digestible stuff.

The 1961 National Open winner, Gene Littler, hits on one of the major weaknesses of the average golfer and offers some specific suggestions on what can be done about it in his new book, **"How to Master the Irons,"** an illustrated guide to better golf (to be published in March by the Ronald Press Co., 15 E. 26th st., New York 10. Cost of the book is \$5.)

"Most golfers could chop one to five strokes off their game," Littler says, "if they paid as much attention to the irons as they do to their driver and putter." With the help of Don Collett, (head pro at Coronado, Calif.), Gene describes and demonstrates, through dozens of sequence photos, practice methods that have worked for him. These methods, he says, will be equally valuable to anyone who wants

to improve his game.

The book leads off with the short irons, then turns to the medium and long irons and fairway woods. Readers are shown how to combine a steady rhythm with the weight distribution that delivers maximum controlled power to the club face. A big section on advanced golf is filled with advice on pitching, chipping, and handling trouble shots.

**The Winning Touch in Golf.** By Peter G. Cranford, Published by Prentice-Hall, Inc. Englewood Cliffs, N. J. Price \$7.50

Dr. Cranford, a psychologist, writes 53 "secrets" of successful golf psychology. They all add up to organized mental discipline and common sense. Cary Middlecoff wrote the book's introduction and Leland Gustavson did the illustrations. Dr. Cranford cites numerous experiences of ordinary golfers and stars to point out the effective employment of the psychological approach to golf problems.

### Couch Writes Book on Turfgrass Diseases

Houston B. Couch, plant pathologist at Pennsylvania State U., has completed a book, "Diseases of Turfgrass", in recent weeks. It is published by Reinhold College Textbook Dept., Dept. M-912, 430 Park ave., New York 22. The book gives a detailed and comprehensive treatment of turfgrass diseases. There are numerous illustrations to help in the identification and control of fungi as well as diseases caused by nematodes. The publisher describes the book as being an authoritative reference work and one to be studied by persons working in the turf field.

### USGA Doesn't Publish Course Specifications

The USGA reports that its attention has been called to some new courses in the U.S. that reputedly have "been built according to USGA specifications". The association does not recommend or publish specifications of any kind for course construction. In recent years, its green section has developed specs for the construction of greens, but it is specifically stated that these are of little use if laboratory soil tests aren't made in conjunction with them.