NEED MORE A1 AMATEURS

By MEL SMITH

Professional, French Lick Springs, Ind.

OF THE many problems the golf business must solve the most important is that of developing players. All other business problems are of lesser importance to pros. If better amateurs are developed, more amateurs are

developed. Such outstanding amateurs as Ouimet, Evans, Jones and Little were responsible for wider interest in playing the game. None of us, whether tournament players or home club pros, can depend entirely on the outcropping of amateur genius for the future of our business. We must make more good players!

Why haven't we more good amateurs now? Why aren't there at least a halfdozen really able amateurs at almost every metropolitan club, instead of the existing situation which usually shows only two or three—or sometimes none amateur stars at a club.

Swing Must

Sound Simple

I'll venture the diagnosis that pros generally have scared many good amateur prospects away from development by making too strong a play on the mystery of the golf swing.

Think of the cases of pros who are widely known for their instruction results. They are men who stress the simplicity of golf. Ernest Jones with his "swing" method and Tommy Armour with his "four fundamentals" are the successful type of instructors who have progressed and whose pupils have developed because of removal of the "mystery" emphasis from instruction.

Are there such secrets about this game that only a few should know, or do know? Surely golf is not that difficult that the American public cannot master it. They have mastered everything else.

We all know only too well that an effort is being made in all directions to encourage new players into the game, but what happens to them after they are formally introduced? We do not hear very much of them or their progress toward becoming champions. They are just dropped into the vast army to shift for themselves after a very short time.

One does not have to start playing this game from the junior ranks to become

a champion. Goodness knows there are armies of good material roaming the fairways today who would like to become champions, average players who would give most anything to improve their games. They give every indication in that direction, the way they support their clubs, back open championships, follow exhibition matches, read every article written on golf, always with the thought in mind that some day they will run onto the mystery that makes this game so difficult to master. This surely should not be the case with such loyal supporters of the game. Every effort should be made to educate these average players and new players to the extent that when they do follow an exhibition match or gallery at a tournament they will derive some definite benefit and knowledge toward the improvement of their own games.

Teach Them What to Watch

Just what does the average player get out of following performances of master shotmakers? Just what have they accomplished other than to say they watched this player and that player, or they talked with so-and-so—he is a wonderful player? Maybe this individual is satisfied just to get in a good hard day's work tramping after these tournament players up hill and down dale ending up with nothing more than two tired feet. That is all fine and dandy, but what have they actually derived toward the betterment of their own games? I say, nothing at all.

If we are to step up the caliber of our present amateurs to what it should be, their handicaps indicate that these mysteries of golf shotmaking must be removed by the professionals.

I appreciate the fact that the average player can not devote as much time to his game as the playing professionals do. But I do maintain that a better understanding could and should be put before our players of today so that when they read articles and follow exhibition matches it will be an education to them and their own games. If a few definite fundamentals were instilled in their minds and these so-called mysteries reduced, our golfers of today and those to come would all be working in the right direction and champions would be made.

What then is the remedy for all this? Nothing more than good competent instruction. This calls for a lot of hard work by both the pupil and the instructor. If a professional will talk the workings of an orthodox swing over with his pupil, give him a definite mental picture of what is expected of him and his part in the issue, a thorough understanding would be had on both sides—then progress is sure to follow in all directions.

The professional first of all must brush



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up on his own ability to instill his golfing knowledge into the minds of the pupils so as not to make it such a mystery. The execution of an orthodox golf stroke is not so complicated. The workings are very simple indeed. It is a process of eliminating a lot of unnecessary thinking on the part of the pupil. After the first rough stages are over with it is a matter of one or two definite thoughts.

There are many fine professionals today who really know golf and the sound fundamentals that must be had before a player is to develop. But they are either afraid of themselves or have not the ability to impart their knowledge in a simplified way, hence the mysteries. I have had this said to me many times; "Why is it that one pro will tell you one thing and another will tell you just the opposite", or, "All you pros are alike." This is not fair to the pros in general. It is a very bad situation from every angle. The average player's first thought is that he is being misled. We do not have to systematize instructions. There is only one basic way to execute anything; there is no other way. The sooner the pros get this thought over to their pupils the better understanding will prevail between the pros and the amateurs of today.

The amateur, on the other hand, should be fair with his instructor. Give him an opportunity to produce and he will with pro cooperation. He is responsible now if he is to continue in the pro busi-Just because a home pro is not ness. an outstanding star tournament player, amateurs do not think he is not a fine instructor. Resident professionals who have a membership to look after and club duties to perform can not be running around the country playing in tourna-ments. Members come first with him, therefore he gives up what opportunity and publicity he might have had if he had taken the time to roam the country playing. Resident pros can not often be playing pros and take care of their jobs too. The mystery lessens when these things are considered.



SEPTEMBER, 1937

Schenley Rates Club Managers High as Suppliers of Quality Liquor

L EON BRIN of the Schenley Import Corp. pays high tribute to club managers, writing of Dewar's Scotch whiskey American promotion plan in August "Liquor Age." Brin tells that in taking over exclusive importation of Dewar's Ne Plus Ultra and its White Label, the first step was to establish Dewar's from the top down—that is, get strongest possible distribution and display of Dewar's in the prestige spots.

The standing and performance of club managers as judges and suppliers of quality liquors identified them plainly as the main men to be seen and sold in getting a first class whiskey into the first selling class, Brin relates. He found at the leading clubs a keen managerial interest in securing choice stocks, and testifies that this managerial interest was reflected in the membership and general standing of the club.

The Schenley Import authority also had comment to make on the membership reaction to golf club managers' selection of whiskies. He cited evidence from extensive surveys to show a definite return of the pre-prohibition polite boasts of club members regarding their clubs' cellers. This factor, observes Brin, is doing much to remind the club manager of the importance of carefully selected liquor stocks and to make the leaders in the club management field receptive to the presentation of quality liquors' sales stories.

Liquor profits, so prominent managers pointed out to Brin, play such a big part in club operation today that the manager who is handling his job thoroughly has to keep conversant with developments in the high class liquor market.



A^N old-fashioned trading trick recently caught some Eastern golf course supply dealers napping. Several golf clubs sent to dealers long lists of equipment and supplies on which quotations were desired. Dealers were anxious to make the total amounts of bids add low enough to provide competitive advantage so quoted minor items at below cost in several instances.

The shoppers bought the minor items at the loss-prices quoted by dealers, but didn't buy anything else, for the quotations neglected to specify that prices applied only in case of blanket orders. Dealers who got caught promise they won't be suckers again for the same fast one.

Wood a Picker—You have to hand it to Craig Wood in his choice of assistants. Craig brought Paul Runyan and Clarence Clark into big time tournament golf as his assistants and now the genial Jersey blond has Ben Loving on his staff. Ben finished in a tie with Maurice O'Connor at 287 for third spot in the recent New Jersey Open. Craig and Vic Ghezzi tied at 278—10 under par—for the event. Vic's 69 nosed out Craig by a stroke in the play-off. Art Straub was in the second spot with 285.



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GOLF'S MARKET PLACE

Fred Newman, president of Jackman Sportswear Co., 218 S. Wabash ave., Chicago, has arranged with the Manufacturers' Relations committee of the PGA to market an exclusive line of sport shirts and golf jackets bearing the PGA label of endorsement to pros who are members of the PGA.

The merchandise is of fine quality, styled with care and priced competitively to allow a good margin for resale. A large stock is available in Chicago, with additional points of distribution planned for next spring.

The PGA shirts and jackets are in addition to the regular Jackman line of golf apparel, which as heretofore will be available to all pros.

The U.S. Royal golf ball advertisement "These Things Are Golf," with which the Golf Department of United States Rubber Products, Inc., introduced a new kind of golf ball advertising designed to "sell" the game of golf to hundreds of thousands of people in the United States, caused many hundreds of golfers to "take their pens in hand" and contribute a few observations of their own. The picture in the original advertise-

The picture in the original advertisement showed an artist's conception of a perfect golf course. Accompanying this picture was the poem "These Things Are Golf."

"Tide," a magazine devoted to the advertising profession, said:

- Lowering clouds, air that is hushed, the rain and the thunder and the lightning.
- So-called friends who trudge with you over the course, and tell you what's wrong with your grip, and how, ever since they changed *their* grip, they've been making the eighth in par, and what are you so quiet for anyhow, you're not letting a little thing like a 14 on that last hole get you down are you, why, hell, when *they* used to play about as badly as you—
- The feel of your sweat-drenched shirt clinging to your back, and the yielding suck of the earth as your foot oozes into the swamp on the 12th.
- The exhortations to hurry up or those dubs in back will be wanting to go through, to stop waving your can around and *hit* the ball for godsake. To cut out those deepbreathing exercises and remember that this is a match, and you're seven down besides.
- The misery you get from a putt that's wide, and the agony of a long drive slicing into the woods.

SEPTEMBER, 1937

The charley-horse you have at the end of the day, when your arches are falling and your head splitting open. The sense you have to give up the game before it gets the better of you, and the determination to give it just one more chance tomorrow . . These things are golf too, U. S. Rubber, Inc."

There were many others. Some complimentary—others calling down imprecations on "U.S.'s" advertising department for describing so graphically the lures that bring golfers to the brink of that great emotional unknown, "going nuts."

The Kroydon Co. is offering a complete DeLuxe Golf Outfit for women. The set, which retails for \$150, is a "Study in Blue". Both club and duffle bags, the three wood-club covers, and the leather grip of each wood and iron are azure blue.



The clubs are fitted with Kroydon Rhythmic Hy-Power shafts—and even the fluting on each shaft, as well as the lettering on the back of each iron-club head are blue to match the grips. The complete outfit is boxed in an attractive, yet compact display case for the pro-shop.

play case for the pro-shop. The outfit is sold with the proviso it may be exchanged for men's clubs, if desired.

Lyon Metal Products, Inc., has just redesigned its entire line of folding chairs. New features include an extra wide seat curved to fit the body and located with relation to the form fitting back rest to support either a small or large person in an exceptionally restful manner.

A channel steel frame supports the cross braced canti-lever type seat. Chair has only three moving parts. Live rubber



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back as well as any color combination in upholstery or finish which may be desired. For further information, write the manufacturers at Aurora, Ill.

Amid the applause of the membership and to the fanfare of a band employed for the occasion, President M. A. Gilmartin of the Garden City CC officially turned on the first fairway sprinkler of the club's new golf course irrigation system, Saturday, August 7th.

For a number of years a hoseless irrigation system has been the ambition of this club. Many plans had been considered and rejected; finally, under the leadership of Leonard Tingle, green-chairman, the irrigation program got under way.

Employing Robert Trent Jones, well known golf architect, the club decided to



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remodel a number of holes and design the irrigation system to conform to these changes. Allowances in the pipe lay-out were made to permit certain future improvements.

The new irrigation system is hoseless. Water is taken from the club's own well, which produces between 400 and 500 gallons per minute.

The project was completed on schedule without closing the course to play. On Saturdays and Sundays no ditches were left open and all construction work was suspended to permit free and unobstructed play. Two weeks after completion of the job, few if any marks of the newly laid pipe were visible on the course.

The system was designed by Jones, and the plans were checked by the engineering department of the Buckner Mfg. Co., Elizabeth, N. J., and Fresno, Calif., originators of hoseless golf course irrigation systems in the East. Construction work was done by Morrison and Bradshaw, Elizabeth, N. J., specialists in golf course irrigation.

A metal clip, holding six wooden tees and a score pencil, is being made by H. C. Cook Co., Ansonia, Conn. The device is compact and neat. It attaches to the upper edge of a golf bag, or to any other convenient location on the bag.

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ILLINOIS GRASS CO. Telephane Hemeweed (III.) 748 18455 REIGEL ROAD (Near Chicage) HOMEWOOD, ILL. It's one of those things that might go very well at public course shops and at some private clubs. A dozen of the clips are mounted on an attractive display card. Retail price of the clip with tees and pencil is 25 cents. Pro price is \$2 a dozen.

The gadget really is quite a convenience and not foolish-looking as are many of the tee-holding devices. It seems to have a chance for pretty good sale.

Last year the Christmas gift golf ball package produced by A. G. Spalding & Bros., with its one dozen top-grade Spalding golf balls and a copy of Rights and Wrongs of Golf, by Bobby Jones, put a nice off-season profit into many a pro pocket and then walked off with top honor in the Irwin D. Wolf awards of the American Management assn. and the gold award for Christmas gift packaging ideas in the All-American Packaging competition.

In discussing the packages this year Walter Roberts, New York Manager of Spaldings Golf Department, said, "We are putting out two packages, one containing one dozen balls . . . the other with capacity for six balls. Thus have we increased sales possibilities and widened the scope for pro profit. The pro now has a six-ball box to offer the mem-



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ber not interested in the twelve-ball package. This means more sales and more profits."

The large box has been worked out in a rich red outer covering with a har-monious red and white combination on the inside. Included in the package is a copy of Spalding's Season Golf Score Record . . . handsomely bound in blue with gold trim on the cover . . . in which the owner may keep a detailed record of every game he plays throughout the entire year. This book also carries com-plete USGA Rules.

The smaller box, containing six topquality balls, has been carried out in like



The large dozen-size Spalding gift box with scorebook and USGA rules.

color combination, matching the larger unit. This half-dozen ball package does not contain the Golf Score Record.

In both packages, future use has been given consideration. Both are beautifully finished and will stand the most critical finished and will stand the most critical eye when used on the coffee table for cigarettes, on the vanity as jewel recep-tacles, or in any of the numerous places in which they may find use. This Spalding gift tieup looks like a grand opportunity for the pro to ring up extra profit right at a time of year

when profits are most welcome.

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