



# Around the Office Desk

HOW many questions can an inexperienced greenkeeper ask of an older one in a period of ten minutes?

Recently we received four pages of finely written questions from one source, and if they keep coming in at such a rate the Clearing House will be spread over considerably more than two pages. This young man states, "I have just been reading the last copy of THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, and I saw right away it is the goods. I want to join the association, so please send me all particulars, and in the meantime will you give these questions your attention?"

GREENKEEPERS are not the only ones who recognize the value of an exchange of practical information on keeping greens. Mr. T. L. LaMalta, chairman of the Green committee of the Colonial Country Club, Memphis, Tennessee, writes: "After having read THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER from cover to cover, I am of the opinion that if the standard set-up in the copy I have seen is maintained, the magazine can do a world of good."

THE greenkeeper of the Colonial Golf and Country Club at Wakefield, Massachusetts, Walter Darling, says he is a newcomer in greenkeeping work with only four years' experience, "having taken over my present course after graduation from Massachusetts Agricultural College. The benefits I would have received from an organization of this kind at that time would have helped me very much. I have been waiting for an opportunity to join an organization composed of greenkeepers, as I believe there is no better way of improving golf courses than by the interchange of experience and co-operation of brother greenkeepers."

A. M. ESTERLINE, greenkeeper at the Delaware Country Club, Muncie, Indiana, comes forward with the statement, "I would be a member if it cost me twice as much as it does. I will send you some pictures of my course just as soon as I can get some taken and also tell you how I manage eighteen holes. THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER is most wonderful, and I am well pleased."

## The Family Album

Oh, where is the man who's so dead to the world

That wearing a mustache, he still wears it curled?

And where is the woman who likes to be told  
Her bonnet's on crooked, or she's getting old?

Down highways and byways, wherever you roam,

You'll never find any such people at home.

They dwell in our attics, all covered with dust,  
In picture frames broken and eaten with rust,

In blue velvet albums, all tattered and torn,

You'll find how a curly mustache should be worn,

And ladies with bonnets awry, and their youth  
Extinguished at thirty, accepting the truth.

The curly mustache, and there on the last page  
The woman who meekly acknowledged her age.

By Gertrude A. Farley.

THE owner and manager of the Wilshire Country Club at Los Angeles, California, congratulates us on a very fine issue, and says, "I am very glad that we now have a publication which will cater to the men who have to tackle the problems of greenkeeping. I wish you all success in this work."

THE annual meeting and golf show brought an aftermath of reams of correspondence from greenkeepers, chairmen of the Green and many manufacturers. From their number we select one letter from Frank A. Sundy, greenkeeper at the Pontiac Golf and Country Club, Pontiac, Illinois, which states in part, "I want to say I am certainly pleased I am a member of the organization. When I attended the annual meeting

in Chicago I met some of the officials and they certainly are workers for the greenkeepers. In the near future I am going to send a write-up for the magazine. All the boys are writing very interesting articles."

A MAGAZINE which fills the bill with its readers is resting on the firmest foundation possible to build under any publication. Just such a foundation the greenkeepers of America are building under THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER. That advertisers recognize this fact is confirmed by a recent letter from L. F. Mitten, Royer Compost machine distributor at Wilkesbarre,



Pennsylvania, stating, "I have just written a prospective advertiser in THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER as follows: 'I am very well pleased with the returns we are getting from the magazine. We have received four or five orders we can directly trace to this advertising. THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER is reaching the people who actually buy golf supplies.'"

"THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER is the only golf publication at present carrying our short story of goods for sale, therefore the actual business and inquiries we are receiving we can attribute only to this medium," says T. B. Tuck, of the Cleveland Charcoal Supply Company.

ONE of the most conclusive evidences of the value of this magazine as an advertising medium is the fact that no advertising campaign has yet been entered into, and no letters filled with flowery adjectives have been written in an effort to secure advertising contracts. Yet we receive practically every day subscription applications from manufacturers, with letters stating that the magazine is on their list for 1928 advertising. Recognition of the place the greenkeeper holds in the world of golf, and the desire to bring before him everything that may be of value to him in maintaining a golf course is expressed in these letters.

MISS MARY K. BROWNE, the tennis and golf star, in a conversation with the writer in our office two years ago, exclaimed "Do you know, I think golfers as a whole take as a matter of course the wonderful greens we play on. Personally, I never realized until I talked with you how much there is to this keeping of greens. Where would we be whose scores mean so much to us, if it were not for the knowledge of good greenkeeping and the fine care our greenkeepers give the courses we play over?" Miss Browne only expressed the viewpoint of the average player, and how better could she have proved the point that golfers as a whole take for granted a playing surface, perfect because of the fine art of the greenkeeper in charge.

LET the mission of THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER be carried on, not in advertising campaigns, nor in editorial wanderings from the direct line of the goal we are striving to reach, but to

*Help the young to make good and the game of golf better,*

*And take at true value the praise in each letter;*

*Let none dull the edge of our good commonsense,*

*And in keeping the faith find life's full recompense.*

## Monkey Wrenches and Mowers

An automotive engineer with twenty-seven years' experience in testing motors for the United States government once said, "There are more automobiles ruined with a monkey wrench and a screw driver than are worn out on the road."

That's a pretty broad statement, but we are wondering what he would say if he saw in one collection all the putting green mowers that have been in use for the past three years on golf courses in this country. Whatever his remark would be, it is sound judgment on the part of the greenkeeper to allow no workman the use of either of these small tools on any mower unless he knows exactly how to use them.

An uneven adjustment of the blades, even very slight, shows up at once in mowing greens, and adjustments should always be made by a man who has mechanical ability. When properly adjusted the cylinder will revolve without binding at any point, and if the machine is well sharpened it will cut paper cleanly and without tearing.

The summer of the putting green mower's discontent is now at hand, and like all other machinery having parts which bear upon each other and set up friction, the proper grade of lubricating oil is a most important factor. Hand mowers should not be lubricated with too heavy a grade of oil. A medium to light oil is best, and

it should be used frequently. If the bearings become gummed from the use of heavy oil, gasoline should be poured into them, washing out thoroughly and allowed to dry. Then they should be filled with medium light oil. Frequent examinations should be made so that at no time is there a lack of lubrication in the working parts.

Mower blades should never be sharpened with a file. If no grinding equipment is at hand, they should be bevel ground on a stone and finished on an emery wheel, which will give them a lasting edge.

Bolts and screws on every mower should be kept well tightened.

It is impossible to give in detail instructions for the care of hand mowers which will cover the various makes in use on golf courses, therefore the greenkeeper should follow carefully the instructions sent him by the manufacturer of the mower he is using. Designs differ, and some operations in the care of one design are unnecessary in caring for another. The manufacturer of any piece of golf course equipment is anxious to have that equipment give satisfactory service, in order to maintain and build up his business. Every manufacturer's equipment must compare favorably with that of other manufacturers in the field, therefore the instructions he sends out for the care and operation of his particular design of mower should be followed implicitly in order to give the mower a fair chance to give service.