

From the Local Viewpoint

ONE of the most direct and shortest routes to success in the greenkeeping profession has been taken by the Mid-West Greenkeepers' Association this year. This is toward the establishment of a turf experiment station to be maintained in the Chicago district, by the local clubs, in co-operation with the U. S. G. A. Green Section and the Mid-West Association.

The Forest Preserve of Cook County has offered to furnish sufficient land gratis for the station, through the efforts of "Chick" Evans, Mr. Kendicott, chief forester, and Mr. A. Cermak, president of the county board of supervisors.

The name of "Chick" Evans has been one to conjure with in the game of golf for several years, and he is known almost as well for his genial smile and handshake as he is for the cups he has won. Golf claims him, whatever other activity he is connected with, and now he is identifying himself with one of the most progressive movements for the betterment of golf turf that has yet been promoted. On a recent visit to Chicago, the editor of this magazine asked John MacGregor if the project would go through. "Oh," he replied, "Chick'll get it squared away, because he knows what it is all about, and believes in it as we do." From what we hear, "Chick" does know what it is all about, and more than that he doesn't muffle many shots that he makes for the Mid-West Greenkeepers' Association.

At the annual meeting of the Mid-West, the following officers were elected to serve during 1928:

President, John MacGregor; first vice-president, Alex Binnie; second vice-president, Robert Dugid; secretary, Edward B. Dearie; treasurer, Fred Sherwood.

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Philadelphia Re-Elects Officers

THE Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents, at their February annual meeting, re-elected for 1928 the officers who served during the past year.

A healthy delegation of Philadelphia members will attend the annual convention and golf show of the National Association at Detroit the week of February 21-25, it was decided at this meeting.

One honorary member has been added to the list of the Philadelphia association, Mr. B. J. Farr, steward of the Marble Hall Golf Club, because of his untiring efforts in making the annual picnics a success.

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New Jersey Discusses Fairways

AT a recent meeting of the Greenkeepers' Association of New Jersey, the subject of improving fairway turf was discussed at length, Mr. Roth of the Plain-

field Country Club first reporting his success with the use of mushroom soil. His theory is that a definite program of fairway fertilization, once started, should be consistently carried on.

Mr. T. H. Riggs Miller in the general discussion which followed, compared a turf crop with the plants grown on a truck farm, in that turf requires consistent fertilization in order to renew itself and maintain a thick stand on a fairway. "Not only must we incorporate organic fertilizer, such as manure, into the soil of fairways before seeding, but concentrated fertilizers are required during the entire life of the fairway," said Mr. Miller.

Mr. T. J. Roth was elected president of the association for the year, Mr. W. Tuddy as first vice-president, Mr. Eaton second vice-president, Mr. Burton treasurer, and Mr. Kells secretary. Mr. Anderson was appointed to serve as trustee for two years.

Mr. T. H. Riggs Miller was given a vote of thanks for bringing the New Jersey association through a successful first year, and it was unanimously voiced to undertake a constructive and progressive program during 1928.

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Cleveland Greenkeepers Give Dinner

THE chairmen of Green committees of the Cleveland district were entertained with a dinner and speaking program by the Cleveland District Association of Greenkeepers at the Hotel Winton, Monday evening, January 23.

At the preceding meeting held at 4:30, a goodly number of chairmen were present with their greenkeepers, and the feature of the meeting was a talk on putting green construction, given by Mr. John Sheridan, greenkeeper at Chagrin Valley Country Club. Mr. Sheridan assisted in the building of a number of courses prior to taking the position with the Chagrin Valley Club, and his paper was much appreciated by all present. This talk will be published in one of the early numbers of the GREENKEEPER.

Mr. George L. Fordyce, chairman of the Green committee of the Youngstown Country Club, who is well known all over the country for his efforts of many years in the protection of bird life, was called upon to give an informal talk on the birds commonly found around golf courses of the north central states. Mr. Fordyce spoke of the necessity of providing bird houses in plenty to encourage birds of economic value, and among the most valuable of our birds, he mentioned the purple martin, flicker, nighthawk and bobwhite. When asked about crows, Mr. Fordyce said that even this often despised bird does wonders for the golf course in

(Continued on page 45)

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Local Viewpoint

(Continued from page 22)

its pursuit of grubs. "They may tear your turf up, but the damage they do may be repaired without any rancor on the part of the greenkeeper, said Mr. Fordyce, "as they always do a lot more good than they do harm."

Departing from the subject of birds, Mr. Fordyce then spoke about killing skunks around the golf course as bad management. "When you find a hole about an inch in diameter and funnel shaped, there's where a skunk went in after a grub, and they always get their grub!"

Another subject that held general interest was introduced by Mr. Grange Alves of Acacia Country Club, who brought to the attention of the meeting a new drainage method for sand traps. Mr. Alves said, in talking with an engineer engaged in the work of sewage disposal and filtration, that the suggestion was made to try draining difficult traps by the filtration method. Mr. Alves intends to try draining one or two of his traps in this way: Lay tile at depth of two feet, then cover first with two-inch slag, then with slightly smaller size, ending at the surface with a layer of fine pebbles or gravel. Careful placing of the various sizes of slag over the tile will prevent the sand used to face the trap from sifting down and clogging up the filtration system, according to the engineer's instructions.

Fifty-seven chairmen and greenkeepers were served at the dinner following the meeting, and Mr. E. W.

Doty, treasurer of the Cleveland District Golf Association, acted as toastmaster. Mr. O. J. Noer was the speaker of the evening, and his talk on soils and fertilization was carefully followed by all present. Mr. Bernard J. Duffy, Jr., president of the local golf association, expressed the pride of the district in the progressive steps which have been taken along golf maintenance lines during the past few years, and offered the assistance of the association in carrying out movements for the general good of golf courses which are started by the Cleveland District Association of Greenkeepers.

Mr. Doty proved to be the hit of the evening as toastmaster, keeping the group in a gale of laughter until he finally announced that it was long past his bedtime, and the party broke up.

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WENDELL P. MILLER

Golf Course Drainage Engineer

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