

ing with so many greenkeepers on the subject, the situation appeared to me more complex and confused than it was before I left home. One would state over-watering, another too much fertilizer, and yet another would quote atmospheric conditions, while others sulphate of ammonia. One greenkeeper claimed we did not have so much brown patch when we used lime and another could not understand why one course that had *Poa Annua* and bent putting greens that the *Poa Annua* got the brown patch and the bent did not, while on another course it hit the bents and left the *Poa Annua* alone. A few claimed the disease was caused from the lack of air. Another could not understand why with two putting greens only a short distance apart—both greens out in the open, both receiving the same treatment, one of these greens got the disease and the other was immune.

I have simply quoted the above to show how most of us are so far apart in our views. Yet in my interviews I failed to have any greenkeeper state that the disease may be caused by top dressing, either from dressing not properly treated and aged or that the disease may be caused by poisonous substances in the soil.

Let us stop and analyze a few of these opinions. Is this disease caused by the lack of air? I visited two courses that were situated close to the Atlantic Ocean. The winds seemed to be blowing over the putting greens most of the time yet the putting greens close to the ocean were hit harder than those quite a distance away.

Can it be too much water? One greenkeeper tells me that he never watered all season, taking only what Nature gave. His greens got the brown patch.

Another informed me that he never top dresses during the summer months. His greens were infected with brown patch.

Another stated that he had a special fertilizer—his putting green got the brown patch.

Another told me that sulphate of ammonia will cause the disease—yet eight years ago the Columbia Country Club at Washington, D. C., never used it and they, too, got brown patch.

Let us try and be honest with ourselves and

acknowledge that we do not know what causes this dreaded brown patch disease.

Joe Valentine told me of three specialists on fungus diseases, graduates of the University of Pennsylvania that specialize on fungus diseases. They claim that the same fungus disease that is in the soil is often found in the human body, and that it has been impossible for them to find a cure. All they can do for the patient afflicted with this disease is to aid them to prolong a few more years of life.

An Open Letter

My attention has been called to rumors, claiming that THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER is not the official organ of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America, and also that it hasn't the association's support.

I feel, as chairman of the magazine committee of this association, that it is my duty to refute these false charges when and whenever possible, in order to promote the association's welfare.

It is difficult to understand the underlying motives of such falsehoods, if a motive they really have, for they certainly work against the welfare of every greenkeeper, regardless of whether he is a member of the association or not, for, THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER is the first and only periodical exclusively devoted to the betterment of this profession, both socially and technically.

During the past two years THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER readers have benefited materially by the articles printed, these being submitted gratis by the members and officers of the National association and not by paid editors, and all the writers' motives are only to promote the association and its members' welfare,—There's the answer.

A concise understanding was attained between the association and publishers during the Detroit convention and the details of same are on the association records of that gathering.

Again I desire to call your attention to the authors of these articles and ask—Who are they? Upon close study you will find that they are officers and members of the National Association working in harmony with the publishers and without pay and for one reason only that is to help our association and to place our profession where it justly belongs.

This magazine is open to everyone and will publish any article bearing upon the welfare of the association, and I, therefore, suggest that the originators of these rumors submit their knowledge by a signed article and mail same to the National association who in turn will see that same is printed in this magazine and should none be coming then we can draw our own theory.

(Signed) A. E. Lundstrom, Chairman

The National Greenkeeper Committee.