

HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS

[The Editor will be glad to suggest to subscribers certain methods of correcting slicing, pulling, etc.]

To assist in getting at the seat of trouble, it is recommended that the stance, grip and swing be described clearly and concisely, accompanied, if possible, with photos taken in action.]

MAILING.—Some of our friends have kindly suggested that THE AMERICAN GOLFER should be mailed *flat*. A good point, and one that has been attended to.

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C. H. S., CONN.—Your inquiry *re* the treatment of putting - greens — proper kind of seed—weeding, etc., will be fully answered in an early issue, allowing ample time for operations in the early spring.

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C. S. K., N. Y.—"This is a question little discussed and yet important in its effect on every shot. Take a line from eye to ball. How much below that line should the hands be in making the various shots?"

A. The arms should be fully extended downward with just enough bend at the elbows to feel comfortably relaxed. The hands should be in the same vertical plane as the eyes, for full shots, and nearer the body for shorter strokes, depending, of course, in all cases on the length of shaft.

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S. L. A., PA.—In all iron shots turf is taken after the ball is struck,

irrespective of stance. The hands and arms do this in the follow through, being assisted by a slight dropping of the right shoulder and a buckling in of the right knee immediately after impact with the ball. This ensures a proper follow through, wherein lies the essence of direction.

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W. H. B., GA.—In no circumstances should the *face* of a wooden club ever be oiled. A few drops, well rubbed in, on the sole and other parts are advisable now and then.

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E. D. D., TEX.—You mention the length of your wooden clubs, but not the irons. We rather incline to the opinion that the latter are too short, in relation to the others.

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F. W. K., OHIO.—"Will you be kind enough to suggest how I may overcome the fault of drawing my club too far back when making a stroke?"

A. Grip tightly, both hands, keep wrists less flexible and don't arti-

ficially assist the up-swing by bending the left knee. Keep your left foot firm on the ground until it is dragged around by the swing itself.

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J. R. L., ILL., H. J. B., N. Y.—I regret that I failed to make my meaning exactly clear in the November issue. To correct a slice, address the ball in the usual way, and then simply move the *hands* back (away from the ball) a couple of inches. In doing this, keep the face of the club at right angles to the line of play, the left elbow rather tucked into the side and the weight of the body slightly favoring the left foot.

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A. E. A., OHIO.—The points you raise, in regard to wrist action, are fully dealt with in Mr. Travers's article in this issue.

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NIBLICK PLAY.—Hundreds and hundreds of men don't know the first thing about how to play a shot out of a very deep bunker. It is comparatively easy. In the first place, the swing is entirely different from that usually employed and, secondly, the ball itself must never be either aimed at or hit. A niblick should be heavy and well-lofted. Instead of swinging the club back, it should be swung as straight up from the ball as possible, almost vertically. To assist this upward movement, bend both knees well forward on the upswing, so that the weight of the body is resting on the soles well toward the toes. Take a full stroke, no matter how

well the ball may be lying, regulating the distance by the amount of sand taken back of the ball. The clearer it lies the further back one should hit. Keep the eye fastened on the spot aimed at and—this is very important—the instant you feel the club-head has arrived at that spot turn both wrists sharply up and around, underneath the ball—pretty much the same kind of movement as in turning a right-hand door-knob. Don't be afraid to hit and be careful to keep the hands well down so that the heel of the club strikes the sand first.

If you will do this, with a very little practice you will be reasonably *certain* of getting out of any bunker in one stroke. After that, it will only be a question of how close you can get to the hole.



Oh! pshaw! I'm putting like a motor boat—putt-putt-putt-putt!