

HINTS AND TIPS

BY E. V. HARTFORD



IN WALKING over the fair-green of a golf course, unfortunately, we notice hundreds of unrepaired divot-marks. We can learn a great deal by studying these; particu-

larly our own. You will notice that seventy-five per cent of them are not pointing toward the flag, but at an angle to the left. Some of course are on a line to the hole, while very few point to the right. Some of those pointing to the left are quite clean cut, while others are more gouged out on the inner side. Let us study them a little and learn a lesson. In swinging most any club, the natural impulse is to want to get it around the left shoulder too quickly. Thus the club-head, when it strikes the ball, fails to travel for a short distance on a line to the hole, but cuts across too quickly at an angle to the left.

If the divot-mark is clean-cut, it means that the fore-arms have unwound, probably too well, and the left arm less drawn in toward the body too quickly. The result is the ball shoots off to the left. It may follow a straight or curved course to the left. If straight, the right hand has turned over properly and the ball shoots to the left by the arms being drawn across. If curved, the fore-arms have unwound too far, besides the left arm being drawn inward. In this case, we have a very bad hook.

Now we come to the divot-mark with the inner side more gouged out.

This is also caused by drawing in the arms too quickly, but the right hand has not turned over enough, with the result that the heel of the club strikes the ground more forcibly than the toe, causing the inner gouge.

This mark might be legitimate, as it is the one left in making the "mashie with a cut" shot. It is unlikely, however, for the player of the "mashie with a cut" shot, generally sees that the turf is properly replaced.

The club head is dragged across the ball with the hands in the lead and a bad slice results.

Now for the cure, so that we may all leave *straight* divot-marks, when it is impossible to replace the turf, and it will be well for us if we always keep this cure in mind *whenever we make a golf-swing*.

In coming down, think of the left arm being as straight as possible, and *consciously force this arm out to the right*, just before the club-head meets the ball. To the habitual slicer, it will require considerable courage, especially when there is an "out of bounds" close to the right, but he will be doing the very thing that will keep his ball away from the out of bounds, and straight down the course with a tiny draw to the left, which we all like to see.

The aiming out to the right counteracts the natural impulse to draw the arms inward, and forces the club-head, as it meets the ball, to remain on the line of flight the correct length of time.

This will also add length to your shot. It comes nearer to being a panacea for all hooks and slices than anything I know of.