



AROUND THE 19TH HOLE



Worms flourish on poor and indifferent greens. Good greens flourish only in the absence of worms. The reason is very simple. As a general thing worms are present in large numbers when organic dressings are used to enrich the soil, in the shape of manure, usually, or other like organic matter. That is "meat, drink and clothing" to them, so that it is no wonder they prefer such favorable hunting grounds.

Worms live upon certain soil constituents, which of course are enriched by the essence of manure, etc. After assimilation the ejecta, commonly known as "worm casts," is deposited

WORMS, and good greens, are an anachronism. There never was, and never will be, a good putting green when worms are largely in evidence. . . . they are contradictory terms.

on the surface of the ground. The hole in the ground leading to the home of the worm is lined with the native slime of the pest, impervious to moisture from the sides. This hole is protected on the top—the vulnerable spot—by the "casts," which are thrown up nocturnally. Worms, by the way, are nocturnal in their habits. Let a worm emerge in the day-time, for any reason—the natural one being a very heavy downpour and the other an application of eradicator—and it will inevitably die from exposure. All eradicators, or destroyers of all kinds, are based on this. It isn't that the worms are poisoned in any way, but simply that the exterminators contain a certain element which irritates the sensitive membrane of the pest, and to escape this, up they come; and once they come up, they are gone.

We have, however, digressed for the moment from the main point—the harmful effect of worms on the surface of a green. Before a green can be cut or rolled it is necessary to dissipate, as far as possible, the "casts." If

this is not done the "casts" are flattened down in the cutting or rolling, smothering the grass and resulting sooner or later in bare spots. But no process has yet been devised—and never will be—that will remove the eruptions flush with the *ground level*. The best that can be expected, by the common method of sweeping off the "casts" with a flexible bamboo pole, is that the *grass level* will have been made fairly smooth. This of course, leaves protruberances between the surface or grass level and the ground level, and whether it be in the subsequent cutting, or rolling, or both, it is impossible to flatten out entirely these inequalities and the inevitable result is a bumpy green, where the ball does not roll smoothly along, as it should, but leaves the surface by intermittent leaps and bounds as it happens to encounter any of the miniature Apennines or Alps on the way but which are concealed from view.

Nor is this all. Even when the "casts" are scattered there are myriads of particles of greater or lesser size which become hard from exposure and undoubtedly have an effect in deflecting the ball.

There is really nothing more distressing in the game than to play one, two or three good shots up to the green, as the case may be, and then be called upon to hole a 3-foot putt on a worm-ridden green. . . . where the chances may really be said to be greatly in favor of the poor putter.—For many a rotten putt, in such circumstances, finds the bottom of the hole, whereas the ball, after a really well-executed stroke, bobbles along and gets up and hits one as it were in the face—and of course misses the hole.

After all, the heart and soul of a hole is the putting-green. It matters comparatively little what the "going" is between the tee and the green; here one may have to exercise all one's skill in the negotiation of a bad lie, or of the various kinds of "hanging" lies—that's part of the game—but once the green is reached at least a true surface should be assured, whether it be flat or otherwise.

THE International team matches with Canada are to be resumed. The last international competition was in 1909 at Quebec, two meetings having been held before that. The United States Team won on all three occasions. This year the match will be played in Canada, at the Hamilton course, in August, two days following the Canadian open championship. Mr. W. C. Fownes, Jr., of the Oakmont Country Club, Pittsburgh, will captain the United States team which will consist of ten players.

AUSTRALIA has the unique distinction of possessing real grass greens for indoor golf. John Patterson, who was professional at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club for seven years, was the first to conceive the idea so he laid down a bed of earth about a foot deep over an area of 75 x 30 feet. He seeded this down and in a very short time developed a really good putting surface.

"Is your husband interested in the League of Nations?" "I should say he is. Why, he talks about that now more than he does about golf."—*Washington Star*.