



EDITORIAL

CERTAINLY no one will claim that the play in this year's Women's Championship was on a par with that of last year when Miss Ravenscroft and Miss Dodd were present. We do not mean to infer that it was below the standard. On the contrary, the general quality of the play was proof of how rapidly our women's golf is improving. But those who saw the play of the two English girls last year were conscious of something in their game which stamped it as seemingly belonging to another order of golf. It was different, and different in the respect that it possessed that quality of finesse which is lacking among some of the most successful of our golfers. With Miss Dodd especially there was a delicacy and grace of style which made her play most delightful to watch. Miss Ravenscroft, although not a graceful golfer, impressed one by the just limitation and economical use of her forces. Her full shots were hit with tremendous power, but, a power perfectly administered. The same was true of her iron play. There was never the least evidence of overswinging, the club coming back but a very short distance for shots which many of our players take a full swing to. She never overreached herself and her style was the expression of restraint at all times.

It is just this that our women golfers seem to lack. The movements of the body do not show coordination, reflecting an economical and just use of the muscles in their relation to one another during the swing. This is of course a general statement and is not true of all. One would not, for instance, criticise Miss Hyde's form in driving. She certainly uses her powers justly and with tremendous effect. But when it comes to the playing of her irons she is too ambitious and will take a mashie where she should have played a mid-iron and consequently is straining unnecessarily. Then Miss Alexa Sterling showed a

style of play that seemed perfect in every detail. A young girl of but sixteen years must go far with such a foundation, and doubtless, some day will see her champion.

It is indeed difficult to criticize the style of Mrs. Jackson, the new champion. She belongs to the upright school of golf, a fact to which her great accuracy is attributable. But one cannot help wishing that she would take a bit shorter grasp of her club which would compel her to play a little more over the ball and consequently gain the extra power which the shoulders would give in this position. The virtue of the upright swing lies largely in the rising of the left shoulder as the club comes down and this is lost if one stands too straight. All the essentials of style Mrs. Jackson has except this one most necessary point, which would add, we think, considerably to her powers.

Miss Rosenthal, whose pluck and excellent putting at crucial moments brought her through to the finals, is essentially a flat swinger. Not being endowed with great physical strength she is compelled to a very full swing with all her clubs. She hits the ball very accurately, but at times fails to get the head of the club to the ball in time, her hands coming through first, with a slice resulting. What she loses perhaps through the green she fully makes up for upon the green itself. Time and again she saved herself by an excellent putt and the more difficult the situation in which she found herself the more she enjoyed it. This only serves to remind one how essential temperament is in competitive golf. Miss Rosenthal was the personification of coolness, for, at the most distressing points in her matches she was always master of herself and displayed a judgment that one would only expect from a golfer of more experience.