

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

By JOHN G. ANDERSON

ONE backward glance, a moment's retrospect at what has happened in the past twelve months and then to winter's planning for the new golf campaign which, we hope, will carry us to still greater heights than ever before. Hope is a wonderful, helpful, companion during the long bore-astastic period; sometimes it is nourished by the conversation with a friend, a fellow golfer, a newcomer at the game who comes for advice, or, it may be the wiggle wagging of the driver before the fireside, or the lucky shot while putting on the carpet. Lots of good things are in store for him who has enthusiasm for the game and a not too impatient spirit. The self-control which the game fosters so well may have full sway from now on. But if we are to think of the future, what the next seven or eight months may mean to us and to all other golfers it might be well to review the progress during the season just closed.

It was just about a year ago that the excitement occasioned by Mr. Francis Ouimet's win of the Open Championship was slacking in force. The magazines and newspapers of this land and Great Britain had covered the feat from all angles and the sport lover had settled back and said, "What next on the program?" The weather was much colder than it is at this time of writing and many golfers, whose avocation is business, had hied to the Southern resorts where the play soon became heavier than at any time in the history of the game. Pinehurst, Bon Air, Palm Beach and many other well-known resorts reported that the season was extremely successful in every way and the golf enjoyed the most pleasurable. Open tournaments for the professionals were held everywhere and the honors were divided evenly between McDermott, Brady, Smith, Nicholls and Kerrigan. Gilbert Nicholas won chief honors at the big tournament at Pinehurst, the United North and South Open Championship, and in the amateur ranks Reginald Worthington of Philadelphia went through to the finish.

About this time, in early April to be exact, play began in the North on links which in most cases could boast of not having been winter killed. Excitement of national importance was exhibited at the very start of the season, for, America was to be represented by her two most famous golfers in the great championships abroad. Mr. Jerome Travers and Mr. Ouimet were the stars who were determined to place American golf in the very front rank of nations, and they were attended by a body guard not to be despised. Fred Herreshoff, Harold Weber, Arthur Lockwood, Fraser Hale, all had their following and when word came that "Chick" Evans was to join the throng the

confidence which the golfers of America displayed was most sanguine. Travers' play during the first few weeks of his visit was wonderful and his win of the medal at Westward Ho! with a brilliant 74, sent the chills running down the backs of many of the Britishers. Ouimet's play was of the in and out variety from the moment of landing, while Evans it will be remembered, arriving a few days before the tournament at Sandwich played in true form.

The cable news on the first day astounded the golfers on this side, for Travers had fallen through a case of nerves. Later Ouimet fell before a player named Tubbs, whom nobody had heard of before, and the others were soon eliminated, Evans being one of the last to go down to his opponent, Macfarlane, who made the first nine holes in 31. The winner was "Laurie" Jenkins of Troon, a golfer who will be heard from in the future if he safely comes through the war now raging in Europe. The Open Championship of Great Britain brought no opposition from the American contingent. J. J. McDermott arrived at the scene of the fray too late, and Mr. Ouimet could do no better than finish well down the list. Harry Vardon, after a battle royal from the start with J. H. Taylor emerged the victor, thus gaining his sixth championship title of the British Isles. The Americans were not to come home empty-handed, however, for the amateur French championship title was won by Mr. Ouimet. A few weeks later J. D. Edgar of Northumberland won the title of open French champion from a field which included the best players of Great Britain and France. One other foreign title we should mention, that of the Ladies' Championship which was at last won by the favorite of the past three years, Miss Cecilia Leitch.

Meanwhile, golf was booming all over the land. The extra interest was due, perhaps, to the great victory of the preceding autumn over the two great British professionals. Sectional championships were decided, the Metropolitan Amateur Championship going to Mr. Oswald Kirkby of Englewood, who soon afterwards annexed the New Jersey title as well. The Massachusetts Open Championship was won by Michael Brady after a tie with Orvin Terry. Near the end of May was played the Woman's Metropolitan Championship and this resulted in a win for Miss Lillian Hyde of the Westbrook Club. This tournament was followed by the Eastern Woman's Championship and Mrs. H. Arnold Jackson of the Oakley C. C. of Watertown, Mass., proved victor.

The scene shifted to the west where the Western Amateur Championship found Evans in his best golfing mood. After the first round, when he was

GOLF ILLUSTRATED



THE VIEW FROM THE FOURTH TEE ON THE NEW MERION COURSE IS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE BEAUTIFUL NATURAL LANDSCAPES THAT ARE A FEATURE OF EVERY HOLE



THE CHARMS OF GOLF AT AUGUSTA, GEORGIA ARE WELL ILLUSTRATED BY THIS LANDSCAPE OF A GOLF HOLE WITHIN ITS ENCLOSURE OF PINE TREES

G O L F I L L U S T R A T E D

forced to go twenty holes against J. K. Bole, there was no difficulty in his path to the title which he won with ease. The Open Championship of the Metropolitan District drew the strongest field in years and the result was a brilliant win for MacDonald Smith. Then came the Open Championship of the United States when Mr. Ouimet was called upon to defend his title. He did well, having one round of 69, but a lapse in putting lost him his chance. He finished in fifth position. The championship was won by the Rochester professional, Walter Hagin, who was just a stroke ahead of Evans, whose finish, an inspiring 70, gave him the grand total of 291, the lowest ever made by an amateur in this country in a seventy-two hole competition. The Western Open was won by J. M. Barnes formerly of Tacoma, from a representative field.

The stage was set for the Amateur Championship at Ekwanok. Ouimet and Travers were gaining new laurels and Evans together with Whitney, the Southern champion, gave a sectional note of rivalry. The story is still fresh in our minds. The four-time champion, Travers, faltered in his confidence, though not in his courage, and the title passed into good hands. The play of the winner, Mr. Francis Ouimet, was hardly a whit below that at Brookline last year. Boston was able, soon afterwards, to proclaim the coming of another champion of the country in the person of Mrs. H. Arnold Jackson, who won the Woman's title at Nassau, defeating Miss Elaine Rosenthal of Chicago, in the final round. Only two events of great importance remained, one the Inter-collegiate Championship which "Ned" Allis won with the greatest of ease and the matches for the Lesley Cup, which finally found a resting place among its old friends in New York. So much for the playing end of the game and the tournaments of the year at home and abroad.

The highest sort of advancement has been made this year in the architecture of courses. The members of clubs all over the United States have been obsessed with the idea that they must have the best course that money could buy and have it quick. The demand for course architects has exceeded the supply, but the results are seen on every hand. Visitors from across the water confess that The National Golf Links of America is just about the best course that there is to be found anywhere. New courses in the Philadelphia district are going to surpass anything which they have and thereby increase the ability of the golfers; away out in St. Louis there is a new course which promises to become the rival of any in the land; the war hasn't affected the pocketbooks when it comes to needed golf improvements. The golf course-to-be at Long Beach, when finished, will be the last word in architecture and prodigious labor; there never was a greater attempt anywhere to bring order out of chaos, to shape and mold a golf links out of

such perfectly apparent difficulties. Every branch of industry, every profession, every avocation, has its geniuses; golfing America should be proud of the fact that she has the finest golf architectural genius of modern times in Mr. Charles B. MacDonald, whose constructive work on these lines is unequalled.

The standard of play showed no falling off and the interest in the tournaments was too keen for comfort, as many as two hundred and fifty turning out for some events, and considerably over a hundred playing in one day tournaments. The question has been raised this past year of holding the meetings on a handicap basis, that is, having those who were ten or under play at one time and then those over that figure at another. This is a scheme which will be tried at some of the clubs the coming year and then it will be possible to decide how it works. The fields for the championships were very large; the management was all that could be asked for and the courses for the two amateur events were most satisfactory and pleasing. However, there was much fault to be found with the Midlothian course where the Open Championship was held, for it did by no means come up to the standard. For that reason, it was a fortunate thing that the foreign players waited a year before coming to try their luck again. The professionals have got used to going anywhere now and saying nothing, but the game is becoming more and more of a gallery spectacle, and to those who appreciate good golf a chief requisite is to have it played over a good course.

One of the pleasing facts to chronicle is the rise of the younger players, golfers like Reginald Lewis, Clark Corkran, Max Marston, Philip Carter, F. Dyer, Raymond Ouimet, and many others. They play golf with the proper temperament, with good styles and what is more, with an intelligent appreciation of what is necessary to achieve success. In the youth of the land will be found the players who will gain the best that there is from the new trying links; in them is the hope that our golf will rival the standards abroad. It is no idle boast to say that this will be a fact in a few years to come.

Just one thing more. Above are mentioned important tournaments of the year, championships and the like both here and abroad. All fade into insignificance, all importance seems to vanish when we remember the gathering of the clans at Apawamis, recall the sturdiness of the throng, bring to mind the exultant looks, the eagerness, almost boyish, of these men who are now going down the other side of life's hill. If golf can work such wonders, if it can cement friendships and gladden lives, if it can bring to a ripe old age the pleasures of youth, then hasten, hasten, ye winter storms, come quick, O gentle spring. There is nothing finer in the history of the world's play than to see those stalwart golfers trudging round at a time when the gloaming of life spreads like mist o'er the glen.