

The Golfers' Club—and Why

By FLOYD W. PARSONS

Golf has taken such a hold upon us that our only hope of rescue is by a Constitutional amendment. It is the one line of activity in which the will power of the devotee ceases to function. After taking up golf most of us no longer have friends; we have only golfing associates, whom we heartily dislike because they all seem to play better than we do.

But without golf we are sunk. Physically we are wrecked, and socially we are deprived of the only topic of conversation that permits one to realize the highest potentialities of a heretofore latent imagination. Most people make a great mistake in overlooking the effectiveness of golf as a mental developer. We are helpless addicts to the sport because the same round can always be played over again in the dub house after the last putt on the eighteenth has been dropped.

It is all very well to extol the virtues of golf as a molder and revealer of character, a builder of expressive
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and colorful vocabulary, and a suppressor of ego. But the truth is that our recognition of the supremacy of this ancient game is based on reasons that cannot be expressed in terms so purely moral and ethical. In short order we come to understand that golf is a study which challenges each one of us to exhaust the subject. It keeps alive the fires of enthusiasm, and gives us a form of healthy competition where the primary object is to see who can excel in extending to his opponent a maximum of courtesy and generosity.

Here we have the secret of the power of golf over the hard-headed American money-chaser. We turn to this counter-balancing influence with all the avidity of men heartily fed up on a daily diet of set tasks that must be completed machine-like on the tick of the clock.

That is why the newly conceived Golfers' Club in New York appeals to us as a real necessity. It brings together an ideal group of men who have a common interest that is free of any commercial motive. Friendships may here be formed on a foundation resembling in purpose and spirit the unselfish attachments of Fraternity life back in the old college days.

Turning to the purely practical aspects of "the Golfers' Club, we have here an opportunity to do for ourselves in a cooperative way what we could not do individually. None of us ever gets beyond the point of hoping and believing" that he may cut five or ten strokes off his usual score. To do this we must have the advantages not only of advice and expert instruction, but we must have access to the very latest creations of mechanical science.

All of us belong to enough clubs of a purely social nature. We have plenty of places where we can go for lunch and discuss matters of business. This new club appeals to me for reasons that are more hygienic than social. It offers me a partnership in an enterprise that proposes to take advantage of every technical advancement in an art that ranks second only to my religion and my business. Every one of us will come forth with many suggestions, and when the wheat is separated from the chaff, there will be so many splendid ideas available for execution that the outcome will be highly beneficial to all of us.

As a result of the activities of its carefully selected and widely representative membership, this new golf club located in the nation's chief metropolis, is certain to serve a highly useful purpose in shaping the development of a billion-dollar industry and a sport that is no longer a rich man's pastime, but has actually become the national game for the average citizen. I predict that the waiting list to this new organization in a very short time will equal in length those existing at New York's most popular clubs.
