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GOLF

And It's Minimum Essentials
by FRANK THOMPSON, AMATEUR CHAMPION OF CANADA.

No. 10—TEMPERAMENT

Generally speaking the armory of a successful golfer consists of two things—a sound mechanical swing and a suitable disposition. Some place greater emphasis on the latter. But of this we are certain—complete success is not possible until both are found in combination. Temperament is, of its very nature, hard to define. Usually it exhibits itself in the same way on the golf course as anywhere else, except that on the golf course there are greater opportunities of displaying it. This is one reason why golf is such a revealer of character. The person who is excitable and irritable in the ordinary tasks of life will in all probability be more so on the links. And the person who is dour & phlegmatic off the course will usually display these elements in his game. Golf, unlike ball fighting, is a game of cool blood, requiring poise and deliberation rather than agility and alertness. This is perhaps the explanation of why the Scotch excel at it.

Happy is the golfer who is blessed by nature with a suitable golfing temperament. In most cases the right mental poise has been developed, only after numerous cases of collapse. Demosthenes developed into a peerless orator, but on his first attempt he was a complete failure. Such has been the history of most champions. A certain philosophical background is necessary. It is well to remember that in the long run luck usually neutralizes itself so one should not become startled because his opponent happens to hold a long putt. It is a little exasperating to be dead and then see a long one run in. But this happens in almost every match, and it will not help one to curse his luck. In fact it will make the little putt seem anything but easy. Golf is a game demanding poise and calm, and anything which has a tendency to upset one's nerves is to be strictly tabooed.

One should try to develop the right mental attitude with which to play the game. One should never be careless. Oftentimes for the first few holes the player looks at things indifferently, thinking that there are plenty of holes and that the game is young. This method of starting is to be discouraged. One should strive to gain advantage at the start, for if your opponent is at all nervous, gaining the lead early in the game in most cases, aggravates this state. Then again, indifference is very difficult to throw off. There are numerous occasions of a good player toying, perhaps unconsciously, with an admittedly poorer one and then finding it impossible to play seriously when the occasion demands it, with the result that the match is lost. Develop then the habit of playing the game carefully. Concentrate on the stroke at hand; this means that one should make the decision as to the nature of the stroke to be played before the stroke is made, for to think about the stroke while making it is the surest way of fooling it. While the stroke is being made the mind should be as much as possible a blank, if such a condition is possible. Think of nothing at all, but watch the ball. On those red letter days when everything goes right, the game is played so easily and confidently with never a distracting thought. Just as soon as one worries about whether the swing is mechanically right or not, is the moment one's troubles begin. During the game is not the time to correct the swing unless one is satisfied to play it indifferently. This is the reason why so many pupils play badly after tuition. They have been told so many things about the swing that their attention fluctuates from one point to another and it becomes impossible to concentrate on making the club and ball meet.

The golfer should strive to concentrate on the immediate stroke at hand. Keep the imagination in check. Oftentimes one projects his mind into the future, thinking what will happen at the different holes and also wondering what his friends will think if he should happen to lose. This is most futile. To follow on a policy like this is the surest road to defeat. Neither is it good to permit the mind to dwell on past holes. To think of how one misplayed a certain hole will not help much. Usually there is a bad hole or two in every round, so in all probability if one's opponent has not had one he probably will, and this should lessen the irritation. To think of misplayed holes is the surest way to add to their number. Play the game in your own way. Without being rude, it is just as well to turn your back at least mentally on your opponent. Especially is this to be recommended in medal competitions. And even in match play I think it will be found to be better tactics in the long run to play the game irrespective of what

one's opponent is doing. So many in match play "cut their cloth" according to their opponent's game. This with few exceptions is to be discouraged, for it usually introduces an element of effort or pressing into one's game. There are some golfers, and especially those who are long drivers who do not like being out-driven. One had better get used to this, for no matter how long a driver one thinks himself to be, there is usually some one who, on certain days, will drive the ball farther, as I believe Mitchell found out in one of his recent matches in the United States.

Then, above all, one should be confident, and confidence does not come through effort; it comes largely by relaxing and thinking of success. Imagine, if possible, the ball hurtling through the air to the hole, and within reasonable limits it should go there. To think of a bunker is one of the surest methods of getting into it.

The mind is quick to adopt any suggestion and how common an experience it is for one to go into a river or a bunker when once they have been

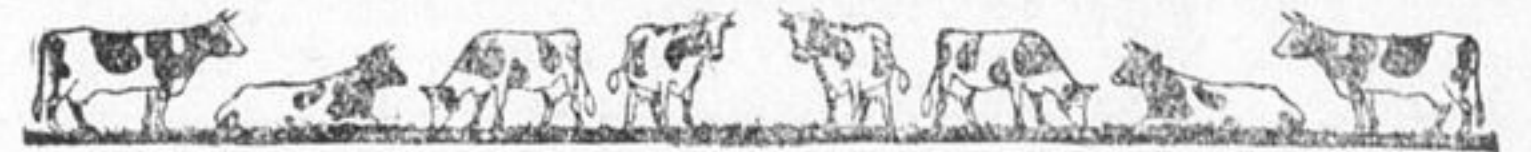
suggested to us. Surely this is the reason why so many players make their poorest and weakest drives at a river hole when from any other tee they find little difficulty in sending the ball the desired distance. Think success, banish all suggestion of failure from your thoughts and success will be yours. I appreciate the difficulty of this task. I leave the means of attaining this desirable end to the ingenuity of the individual. I hope he finds it possible to develop such a mental state without consulting some psycho-analyst.

(The End)

NEW YORK INTERESTS IN BIG DEAL AT KIRKLAND LAKE

The completion of a big deal is reported from Kirkland Lake, the amount involved being said to be the largest in any Lebel Township deal yet put through for any claims. The final price is to be in the hundreds of thousands and a substantial cash payment is said to have been made recently. The claims concerned are located between the Tough-Oakes and the Lebel Lode, and include claims owned by the Wright, Post and North east Kirkland interests.

Mr. R. S. Randall of Port Dalhousie, was a visitor to the Camp this week.



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