

A FEW CAUTIONS FOR NEXT SEASON

(By R. Stanley Weir, K.C., Montreal)

1. It is easier to keep the line to the hole and the ball straight by allowing the nose of the club, rather than its face, to traverse that line. This is true of big tee-shots, approaches and even long putts. By the "nose," I mean what some call the "toe," forgetting that no toe is part of any face.

2. Keeping the face of the club in the line of play after the impact, instead of allowing it to turn, is the secret cause of much unwished-for slicing. When done forcefully and deliberately, however, and with downward, rectangular blow, it becomes the famous push-shot, so useful because of its minimum run.

3. The grip at the address is not the grip at any other point of the swing, for it should immediately begin to relax until the top is reached; coming down it tightens for the impact and then relaxes again. Hence the futility of asking anybody how he grips his club. Ten to one he only shows you the grip at the address. To be of any instructive value he should show you his grip at the top of the swing as well.

4. The secret of the swing, says H. H. Hilton truly, is in allowing the club to be eased in the fingers of the right hand as it goes to the top of the swing. This is a wise word for those who have lost the suppleness of youth and even for youth itself.

5. In the upswing the right elbow should tend to hug the right side; after the ball is struck the left elbow should likewise incline to hug the left side. This apposition of elbow movements is a beautiful characteristic of golf. The extensions for right and left arms as usually prescribed and practised, are mischievous.

6. The *bete noir* of much golf is a right wrist which is allowed to *bend*, whereas as the ball is struck, it should *turn*. Re-read caution No. 1. But let the wrist bend if you would slice.

7. The aerial shots of golf are all marked by underspin; top spin compels a ball to seek the ground. In true underspin the ball spins toward you while the mass goes forward.

8. There is no spin in putts; putts are simply rolled; but they incline to finish to the right or left, according as the heel or the toe of the clubs are slightly in advance of the right line when the ball is struck.

9. Use the forearm with a twist;
Smite the ball *as* with the wrist.

The action is really forearm, but the feeling is of the wrist.

10. The reason why the left hand is a good commander is because it has longer leverage with the club than the right; but be sure that the left hand turns and that you keep the left elbow in whether left hand or right or both are in command. Re-read Caution No. 5.

11. Let us conclude with a touch of sentiment. The true golfer is never beaten unless by himself. The winning of holes is merely incidental, not principal. No golfer has a monopoly of the fresh air and golden sunshine, nor of the green-sward; no golfer has alone the joy of companionship; these are within equal reach of champion and neophyte. Golf is a brotherhood and also a communion with earth, air and sky and sometimes the sea, at their loveliest.

