

GOLFERS IN ACTION

By Mr. Recorder Weir, D.C.L.

III.—MR. WALTER E. EGAN. IV.—MR. W. CHANDLER EGAN

IT really seems as though the premier honors in the golf of the future are destined to fall to the lot of the collegiate circle. Our universities seem to produce the greatest number of golfers that can be grouped in any one well-defined class. Already we have our intercollegiate annual tournaments, in which this year six universities will compete, and the quality of golf exhibited on these occasions is not seldom of a high order, and has been marked by steady improvement.

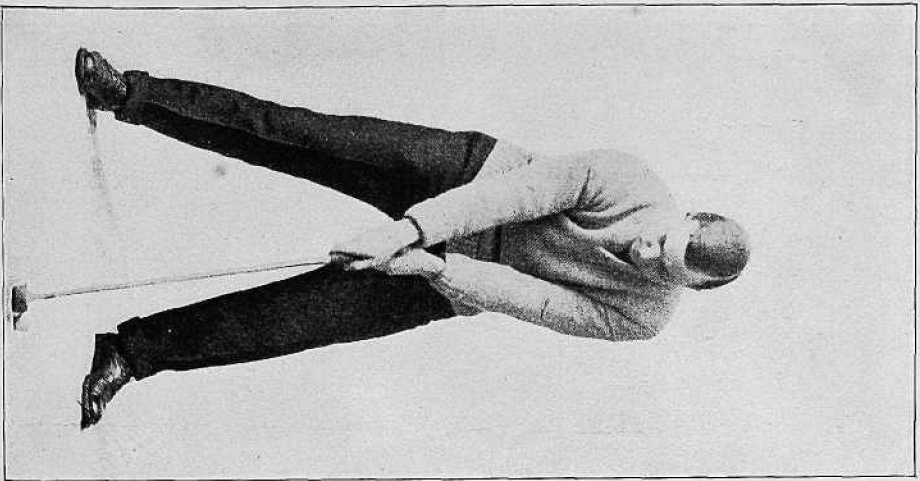
So far the record shows that the present Amateur champion, Louis N. James, is an undergraduate of Princeton; the runner-up in 1901, Walter E. Egan, is a Sophomore of Harvard. It is only necessary to mention such other names as those of Percy R. Pyne, 2d, Chandler Egan, H. B. Hollins, Jr., F. O. Reinhart, and E. M. Byers to demonstrate how influentially collegiate golf affects the vogue of the game in America. It is sometimes debated whether athletics, on the whole, are not baneful in their effect upon collegiate students. We are staunch for the position that golf at least is free from all such reproach. The serious student of golf always finds his faculties sharpened by the problems he has to solve in the course of the game and by the fresh air that circulates through his being as he plays. *Solvitur ambulando* is the appropriate motto of the wise collegiate golfer. Biographical sketches of Messrs. Walter E. and H. Chandler Egan having already appeared in GOLF (*vide* April and October, 1902, re-

spectively), we content ourselves with a brief survey of their respective styles.

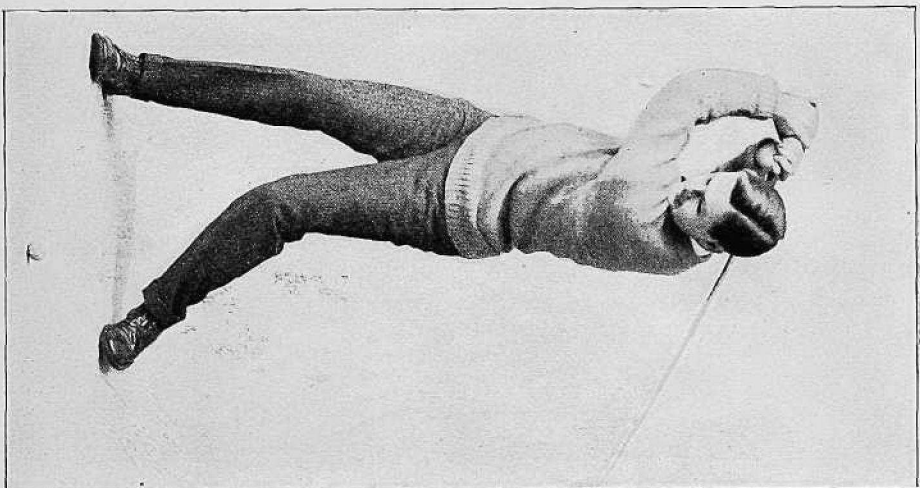
Mr. Walter E. Egan stands 5 ft. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. in height, and his average weight is 167 pounds. He is stockily built, and seems capable of great endurance. He is blessed with an equable temperament that smiles at the occasional reverses of play, while he possesses sufficient tenacity to confirm him in the faith that he never loses a hole until his adversary has won it. Therefore it is his habit to play right on, always doing his best. Our pictures give excellent illustrations of his style. It is not what can be called free, certainly not in the first half of the swing, but it suits the possessor of it, for Mr. Egan is a good driver, capable at times of calling on his reserves for a supreme effort.

For instance, during the Western championship held at the Chicago Golf Club in the summer of 1902 he sent the fickle sphere no less than 300 yards from the sixth tee. One who can accomplish a feat of this kind must be highly respected as a driver of golf-balls.

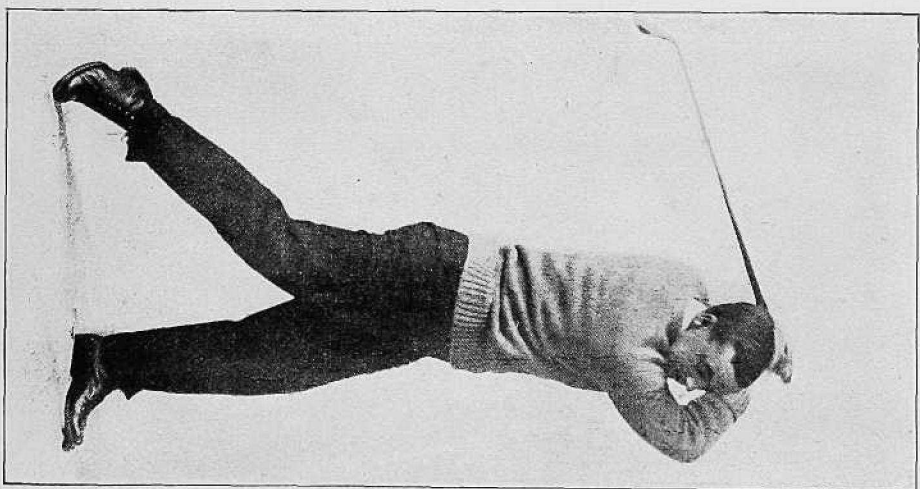
A special feature of Mr. Walter E. Egan's form which is decidedly heterodox *quoad* all save Mr. Walter E. Egan and those of like anatomy, is the firm way in which the left foot remains on the ground. The familiar turn or half-turn upon the left toe is not attempted. As a consequence there is little or no movement of the hips—that is, in the up swing. But note, by way of remarkable contrast, how freely hips and body have turned in the down swing, how freely



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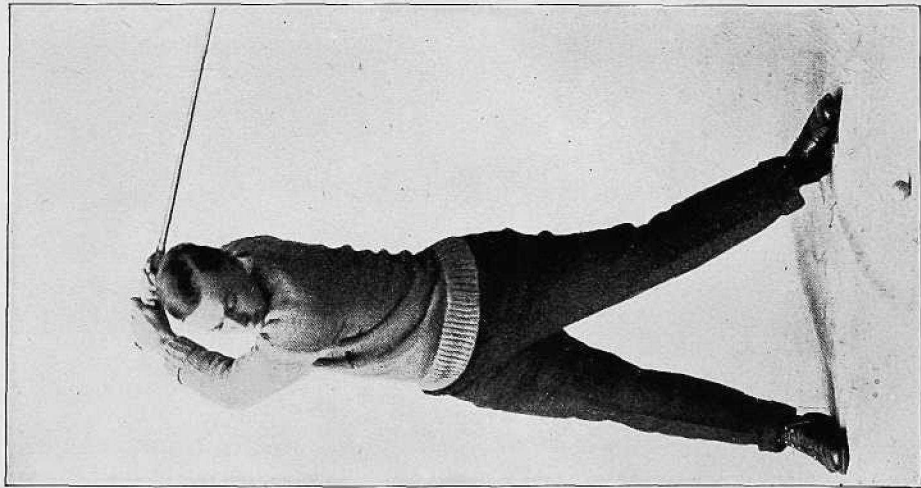


TOP OF SWING.

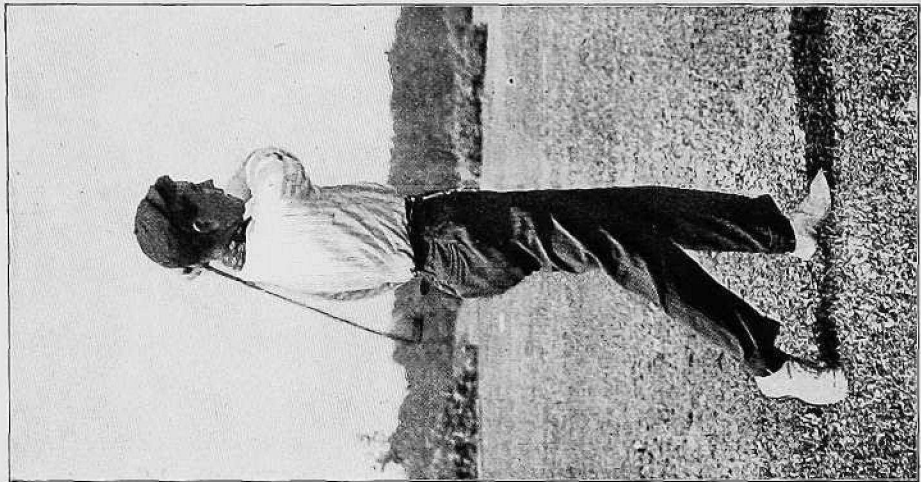


THE FINISH.

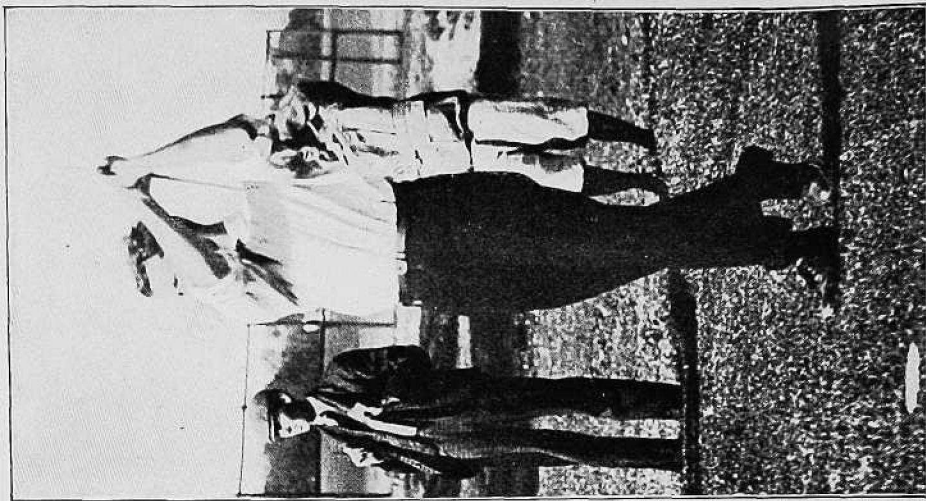
MR. WALTER E. EGAN IN ACTION.



TOP OF SWING.



FINISH OF SWING (BACK VIEW).



FINISH OF SWING (FRONT VIEW)

the right foot has risen to help the turning of the body, and how well the club has been carried out and around the left shoulder!

Another point worthy of notice is the high position of the hands at the top of the swing, a feature which likewise marks the style of Mr. Chandler Egan. This insures that much bigger circles are described by club-head and hands, respectively. It involves, possibly, difficulties as to accurate hitting, to those to whom it does not come naturally, but so far the Messrs. Egan have no particular cause to amend this point of their form. It is interesting to note, however, that players so renowned as the late Lieutenant Tait and the present Amateur champion of Britain, C. Hutchings, did not find it necessary to raise the hands any higher than the shoulders, with the result of almost machinelike accuracy.

Mr. Chandler Egan has a freer style than his cousin, and, as a rule, seems to drive a longer ball.

He is, indeed, a long driver, although at times, as with most, the direction is at fault. The extraordinary performance of Mr. Travis from the eighth tee of the Garden City course in February, 1903, when the ball travelled to the edge of the road guarding the green, has been duly chronicled and set down as the record drive. But Mr. Chandler Egan informs me that he had similar "good luck," as he modestly puts it, during the inter-collegiate championship contest in May, 1902. He drove from the same tee to the edge of the same road, a distance of 380 yards, and therefore is entitled to share the honor of the record. His part-

ner on this occasion was Mr. H. B. McFarland, of Pennsylvania University, whose ball also travelled practically the same distance. Mr. Egan explains this remarkable exploit by the wind at his back, which almost threw him off his balance; but we will give all credit to him and his fellow-collegiate for knowing how to take advantage of old Aeolus upon occasion.

His swing is very pretty to look at, is thoroughly orthodox, presenting none of those somewhat exaggerated features that sometimes mark the collegiate style. Like most young players, Mr. Chandler Egan delights in the long drive, but he does not wholly expend himself in his efforts. His portrait at the finish, while full and free, indicates something of reserve and no undue pressing. It is doubtless because of this that Mr. Egan is able to hit the ball as cleanly as he does. This clean hitting is essential to the long game, and argues a good eye, particularly if the swing be a big one. A good eye Mr. Chandler Egan undoubtedly possesses. So, too, does his cousin. Their performances both on the tee and on the putting-green prove this.

Possibly a greater mastery of the science of slicing and pulling,—those nice problems in physics,—is attainable in each case. But these young players have achieved so much as golfers that, doubtless, further improvement will yet distinguish their performances, in illustration of the occult saying that "to him that hath shall be given." In such case the very highest honors in the realm of golf are likely to be well within their reach.

TO BE CONTINUED.

