

PLAYERS AND WRITERS

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

THE number of writers on golf seems to be on the increase. There are those now writing who never wrote before; and those who used to write now write the more. This is on the whole a healthy sign if only we note the widespread fallacy that a man who can play the game well must necessarily understand how he does it; and this fallacy is yoked to another, viz.: that the good player is always a good writer, i.e., one who can express correct doctrines in a clear and pleasing way. To mention these fallacies is, I think, sufficient to convince any reader that fallacies they are. But the game is very apt to suffer by reason of them. With the best intentions in the world many excellent players have taken to the pen who would have been well advised to stick to their clubs. Their exposition of golfing strokes is excellent when shown by action; it is too often quite the reverse when attempted by newspaper article or book. Notable instances of this are the descriptions by champions on both sides of the Atlantic of the push shot in their respective books. Both men are masters of the shot, undoubtedly, but their accounts of it "are to laugh." If this statement is challenged it could very easily be proved. Other instances appear in the journals of the times.

Nearly all the new writers, following the example of their predecessors, begin by detailed analysis of Grip, Stance and Swing in separate consecutive order, as though the golf consisted of grip *plus* stance *plus* swing and *plus* various other et ceteras. Their method is quite the reverse of what any preceptor of experience and accomplishment as such would adopt. Every good golfer knows, but not every golfer is *aware* that he knows, that the main thing and the first thing about golf is the Swing, and that Grip and Stance should adapt themselves to the Swing as ever-changing factors. Every golfer also knows, but again is not aware of it, that the carefully placed grip which he copies from Vardon or another champion, as he stands at the address is never the same for two consecutive moments after the swing begins—that it constantly varies and changes in its finger-pressure and relation of the palms to the shaft. How useless it is to write articles or books about the Grip without pointing out that it constantly varies during the swing and in what manner it should vary!

Again, how often is the neophyte told as he should be told in the writings of our new instructors, that the Stance, right, left or square, is never for two consecutive moments the same; that it constantly varies with the swing of the arms and the partial rotation of the body; that, like the grip, it is nothing in itself, but only of use as related to the rhythmic motions of arms and body; and that they vary according to the bigness or smallness of the swing until, in the putt, motion by the arms is almost nil and motion of the body is quite nil. Grip and Stance and Swing are all of a piece; the first two are not mere attitudes, but changingly adapt themselves to the third.

Writers for beginners and others should, I think, bear constantly in mind that swing, grip and stance must *unite* to produce the good stroke which is never the same in its circuit for two consecutive moments; that it is useless to point out the grip and stance which one should employ at the beginning of the swing without also showing the ever-changing relation of hands and feet to the body and the club.

Other instances of very imperfect golf-pedagogy might be given, but these may suffice to put the sedulous reader of syndicated newspaper articles upon his guard.

I may add that a certain golfing journal, no great distance from New York, is announcing a series of articles upon "Centrifugal Force" as the great secret

and hidden principle of golf. One is safe to predict that this is a new madness and pseudo-science with a vengeance. Centrifugal force has about as much to do with golf, perhaps less, than it has to do with growing turnips. The writer of this new series, who hails from California, has probably got hold of the very true notion that the golf swing is more or less around the body and *not* out towards the hole, but why does he call it "centrifugal force"?

BLAIRMORE, ALBERTA

The Crows Nest Mountain Makes an Inspiring Background to the Golf Course

HEREWITH a very pretty scene taken on the golf links at Blairmore, Alberta. What they lack yet, perhaps, as new courses, in regard to turf conditions, the links of Alberta, the majority of them certainly have wonderful scenic environment—nothing finer on the Continent. Could there be anything more beautiful for instance than this Blairmore scene with the snow-



Golf Links and Crow's Nest Mountain, Blairmore, Alta.

capped Crows Nest Mountain in the background? It must be a pure delight to play golf at Blairmore.

The Club has a sporting course of 2,866 yards and is well officered as follows:—President, R. Green; Vice-President, James H. Farmer; Secretary-Treasurer, Arthur J. Kelly. The Clubs in Alberta are always glad to welcome visiting golfers. Albertan hospitality is proverbial, you know.

Mr. A. J. Kelly, Hon. Secretary of the Club, writes May 6th:—

"Our present membership consists of fifty men and thirty ladies. We have a course high (4,500 ft.) in the Rockies yet possess splendid fairways and with sand and oil greens we have an attractive course. At this altitude it is impossible to maintain grass greens. Our course is a nine hole course, about 2,900 yards in length. We are using a large tee, five by eight feet, covered with cocoanut matting. The course is only one-half mile from the Town of Blairmore and nearby is one of the cosiest hotels in the West—The Greenhill Hotel. A new club house has just been completed. It is quite complete with fifty steel lockers, a large veranadh, kitchen, lobby room and separate rooms for ladies and men."