

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

GOOD ADVICE BY "ANCIENT."

Golf Editor, The American Cricketer, Philadelphia, Pa.

CAN a man of three-score learn to play golf well? Yes, quite well; not like a scratch player, perhaps, but a game calling for a fairly low handicap. Yesterday I played with a man in his seventieth year, whom I had seen play, say some five or six years before. Then his style seemed irregular and awkward; yesterday it was an even, compact swing, with a free turn of the body. And this since his sixtieth year!

Anyone watching the Ancients and Honorables drive off at St. Martin's in their recent tournament would perhaps have been a little surprised to see the power put into the stroke by men past middle age. What these men needed more than power was its intelligent and confident application.

Fellow golfer of three score, get it forever settled in your cranium that if you are to know all the joys of the game, you are not in it for mere exercise, although that is glorious, but you are in it for skillful accomplishment.

Don't handicap yourself with "I am too stiff and muscle-bound," but know once for all that you have all the strength, all the turn of body, all the nerve, even, if you will believe it and confidently have faith in yourself, to work out such a game as will make some of the young fellows who take you on "sit up and take notice."

And that is where the fun comes in.

Of course it is comforting to be four up on old Bill Jones at the sixteenth hole, but to carry young Jenkins to the eighteenth and bring him in one down is joy indeed.

Well, get busy and do it.

For some dozen years or more the writer topped and dug and sliced away, and mourned ever it all before he caught the right idea of driving a ball. And never will he forget the memorable day when he learned to keep his heavy body out of the stroke until that harmonious instant when it swings round to give it sweetness and power.

ANCIENT.



Courtesy of W. J. Travis.

GEORGE DUNCAN and J. J. McDERMOTT,
At La Bouille, France.

McDermott, on August 1st and 2d, won the Open Championship of the United States for the second successive year.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Golf Association Philadelphians came in for a big share of the honors, when the election of officers for the ensuing year was held. Howard W. Perrin, of the Merion Cricket Club, was elected president for the ensuing year, with J. F. Byers, of Pittsburgh, vice-president. Wirt L. Thompson, of the Huntingdon Valley Country Club, was elected secretary and treasurer, and these officers, together with the following, make up the Executive Committee: H. C. Fownes, Pittsburgh; W. Nelson, Altoona; G. A. Crump, Philadelphia Country Club, and J. A. Janney, Jr., of the Philadelphia Cricket Club. Philadelphians therefore hold four of the seven offices. It was decided to hold this year's contest for the Lesley Cup in Philadelphia instead of Pittsburgh, the contending associations being the Pennsylvania Golf Association, the Metropolitan Golf Association and the Massachusetts Golf Association. It was also decided to hold a 36-hole medal open tournament in future the day before the Pennsylvania State tournament. This will be open to all amateurs and professionals with clubs belonging to the United States Golf Association.

McDERMOTT'S FAILURE IN ENGLAND.

The failure of J. J. McDermott to qualify in the British open championship was a sore disappointment. The young Philadelphia professional, who last year won the open championship of the United States, is an admittedly fine player, but his play at Muirfield was not at all like him. After conversation with him I am convinced that he permitted the thoughts of the great importance of the occasion to bother him and hamper his strokes. He was playing against better golf than he had ever faced before. Take for example the work of Ray, the winner. He took 153 strokes for the 36-hole qualifying round, 295 for the subsequent 72 holes of the open and afterwards 292 for the 72 holes of the French open at La Bouille. This total of 740 strokes for 180 holes reveals that he came within two strokes a round of an average of "fours." Varden's total over the same route was 745. However, I am convinced that he was not afraid of the players themselves for he afterwards played brilliantly at La Bouille, where he finished fifth, but a single stroke back of Ray's 292. In this French open he beat out Mayo, J. H. Taylor, Duncan, Tom Ball, Braid and other top notchers. I think that he was rather overawed by the solemnity of the great British open championship. There he was alone, with all of the traditions of golf staring him out of countenance. But a few years back he was a caddie at Aronimink, and at that time all of these formidable opponents were world renowned. He did not fear their play, although well he might, but he was embarrassed. He is a truly wonderful player and will ripen with age.

LESLEY MATCHES.

HOWARD W. PERRIN, president of the Pennsylvania State Golf Association informs me that the Lesley team matches will be played on September 27th and 28th. Huntingdon Valley will probably get the event, although the Cricket Club has been selected as an alternate. Naturally the selection of the Pennsylvania team will give the committee food for thought. It is conceded that Pittsburgh will furnish three players without question, Eben Byers, William C. Fownes, Jr., and George Ormiston. There are three other Pittsburghers who might possibly make the team, Albert Kay, E. E. Giles and J. H. Childs, but each is a rather uncertain player.

Twelve men are to be selected, and it appears that they must be selected from the State outside of Pittsburgh. There is Reginald S. Worthington of Shawnee, who is a powerful and consistent player. A. Z. Huntington of Wyoming Valley, is another whose claim for recognition cannot be ignored. Let us consider the Philadelphians. Harold B. McFarland and Howard W. Perrin are certain fixtures, and this brings the total of certainties to five. The committee will have to select seven men from among the following: G. A. Crump, R. E. Hanson, Arnold Service, William T. West, William P. Smith, F. W. Kemble, Hugh Wiloughby, Cameron Buxton, Richard Mott, Wirt L. Thompson, E. B. Humphreys, W. G. Pfeil, A. H. Smith, Cecil Calvert, Edwin Satterthwaite, Hugh Wilson, A. C. Williams, H. H. Francine, W. Sargent, Jr., R. S. Francis, and the five out-of-town players already mentioned. There are others who might figure after a competitive trial and such competition is extremely likely. The Massachusetts team has always been selected in this fashion, the results of the medal play absolutely fixing the team. The Metropolitan team is arbitrarily selected by the Committee. I know of no better plan than the absolute selection of Byers, Fownes, Ormiston, McFarland and Perrin, and a fair field and no favors in a long medal competition to determine the other seven; the leading scores to go on the team without question. The three teams should be well matched with the chances slightly favoring the New Yorkers.