

Any club contemplating the building of a first-class course could very wisely offer a fee of, say, \$10,000 for the most meritorious plans—a sum which some architects are already asking. If the club furnished an accurate topographical map of the land, the fee might be considerably reduced.

At the present time the selection of a golf architect is more or less an emotional matter. Some one urges that John Smith is best, because he has built many courses; others lean to James Jones, because he is a convincing talker; while some would get George Robinson, because he has a wonderful set of models. Personal likes and dislikes enter the equation also. Few if any of the men who select the architect have the necessary temperament and technical knowledge to decide on an architect in an unbiased way based on the actual merit of his work.

It is hoped that some of the new clubs will adopt this suggestion of inviting competitive plans and estimates.

Strange Archaeological Discovery

(From *The Scientific World*, January, 1916.)

In an excavation being made for the new sunken garden at Frogaria, not far from Niock, which the ancients, at the time this rock was formed, called *New York*, a layer of shale-like rock of recent geological formation was encountered, evidently an old lake bottom. This layer of rock contained a stratum of globose objects about as large as a hen's egg, but perfectly spherical. These objects were stratified, as many as twenty layers in some places, elsewhere fewer. The surface markings show a curious series of symmetrical designs, some of them tessellated, others dimpled, some muricate with little excrescences. Over one hundred different designs have already been found, and but a small portion of the rock has been broken so that the objects can be released.

At the meeting of the National Academy of Science last evening there was tremendous interest shown. The more conservative members refrained from making comments, but among the younger men were enthusiastic advocates of at least four different theories. Dr. Bougee argues that the objects were seeds of some unknown group of plants. Prof. O. Y. Dumbkopf ridiculed Bougee's idea and insisted that the peculiar fossils were the eggs of some large lizard. Other guesses were by Dr. Razz, who thought they must be puff-balls, and by Dr. Koth, who opined they were coprolites.

Cross sections of the objects have not as yet been accomplished, but Director Glum, of the Biological Laboratory, called attention to the fact that many of the objects were scarred, some indeed with deep gashes, which disclosed that the outer layer is different from the interior. He estimates that the area of rock containing the objects is about 100 yards long and 200 feet wide. In this rock are embedded at least 13,650,000 of the curious spheres.

The meeting adjourned without shedding much light on the mysterious things, but interest among the savants is intense. It is hoped that with very hard steel saws it will be possible to section the objects, whatever they may be, and thus perhaps solve the mystery. A very mystifying feature of these strange objects, utterly new to science, is that they should occur in such immense numbers in the spot where found.