The flow of water is governed by the law of gravity—it seeks hollows. And as most of our bunkers are hollows in the ground, we have only to consider that when a hollow becomes filled with water and overflows, a channel is created which in time grows larger until the original hollow ceases to exist as such and becomes the end of a wash or swale. And what is sand but the residue of soils? And what is a residue but something that occupies the bottom of things? Hence sand is a geological sign of erosion. If, then, we are to make our employment of sand appear to be authentic, it should occupy slightly cup-shaped hollows, which should surface-drain through channels to which artistry must give the illusion of having been eroded. If this is successfully accomplished, then the fact that the hollow is man-made will not obtrude itself upon the golfer's vision.

Where air currents are responsible for the movement of soils (and it is realized that a particle of fine sand is several hundred thousand times larger than a particle of clay), we have that form of erosion where all the finer particles of the soil have been blown away leaving behind a residue of sand in flat wastes which, under the continuous urgency of the wind, are transformed into dune-lands. Hence if we are to use sand in great wastes, these should be large enough to create the illusion that erosion has resulted from wind.

Golfers who have known no other than artificial courses, where the hand of man is evident upon all sides, will no doubt wonder why there should be any need for the illusion of naturalness in this business of using sand. There is, however, a very practical reason. Instinctively the golfer knows that his pastime is a contest with the obstacles which nature spreads in his way; and this is proved by the experience that he readily accepts without question all natural hazards no matter how illogical or damnable they may be. But because an artificial hazard is an evident design to thwart his skill, he argues with it; and should its position not be justified and come to be generally condemned, out it comes. It is not with the sand that the golfer quarrels—he has been educated to accept it as a legitimate hazard,—but with the idea back of its location. And because all artificiality is conducive to thought, it may justly be laid down as an axiom of golf architecture that in the degree the golfer is conscious of design in that degree is it faulty according to the highest tenets of the art.

Controlling Skunks

These little animals, now valuable for the fur they bear and at the same time objectionable for their depredations in poultry houses and the stench that lingers after they have been prowling about, frequently do considerable damage to golf turf. Grubs are to them a delicate morsel, and in their search for such food they have been known to dig up the turf in spots as large as 5 inches in diameter.

There are two methods which have proved effective in ridding land of skunks, namely trapping and poisoning. On account of the restrictions enforced by many States in the use of poison baits, trapping is the preferable method, although poisoning may be the more efficacious. If the use of poisons is contemplated, one should first

familiarize himself with the local laws relative to the distribution of poisons.

Being neither suspicious nor cunning, skunks are easily trapped. A trap of medium size (No. 1) is used, and is best placed along the paths traveled by the skunks to obtain water, or near the openings of their dens. Skunks are often caught in unbaited traps. The head of a fowl, a sparrow, or a dead mouse however makes an excellent bait. The trap should be set lightly (the trigger filed down to fit the notch loosely), and a little light trash (leaves or grass) may be scattered over it with advantage. The bait may be placed on the pan, or a little beyond the trap, or between two traps. The path may be narrowed artificially by setting upright sticks in two converging rows along it, and the trap set in the narrow space. On account of the value of skunk fur it will pay one to use care in killing the animal when trapped. Among fur-bearing animals, the skunk is second in importance in the United States, being exceeded only by the muskrat in total value of fur produced. The animal, when trapped, may be killed by a quick blow across its back, or strangled with a wire noose attached to a pole. The noose is cautiously lowered over the head of the skunk, and by a quick jerk the animal is lifted and strangled. Many trappers, also, drown the skunk. In doing so, a tight box trap is employed for catching the animal, and when one is caught the box is carefully lifted and carried to water of sufficient depth to cover it. If no water is available to drown the animal, it may be killed in the box by carbon disulfid or chloroform. Doubtless, during the open season, arrangements might advantageously be made with trappers to capture as many of the skunks as they can on a golf course.

So valuable is the skunk in ridding farm lands of destructive insects that most of the States now have laws protecting the animals by a closed season. If trapping is resorted to one should therefore first carefully familiarize himself with the trapping laws of the various States. These are published in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1469, "Laws Relating to Fur Animals for the Season of 1925-26," which may be obtained free upon application to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

For poisoning skunks a bait of powdered strychnin is used. Fresh meat of almost any kind will serve well as a bait, although best results are obtained with fresh pork fat or fresh liver. This is cut into squares of 1 inch, ⅜ inch thick, and opened by slitting longitudinally not quite the entire way through the square, leaving a narrow rim uncut to serve as a hinge on which the two severed portions may open like the leaves of a book. The bait is opened and 2 grains (about the size of a small pea) of powdered alkaloid strychnin is placed within. The bait is then closed. In this way no trace of the strychnin need be left on the surface of the bait. Procedure in poisoning likely to prove most satisfactory and of least danger to dogs is suggested as follows: About each skunk den or about attracting stations of chicken entrails or fresh meat placed out of the animals' reach, in favorable locations, expose six or eight dummy or unpoisoned baits like those later to be used with the poison. After being exposed two nights the dummy baits should be picked up and poison baits substituted at dens and stations at which skunks have taken the dummies. All of the skunks are likely to be poisoned on

the first or second nights. The baits left over may then be picked up and destroyed. In using strychnin it is necessary to exercise care to prevent the destruction of valuable animals or birds such as may frequent the course. Therefore, as suggested above, one should not fail first to familiarize himself with the local laws governing the distribution of poisons.

A procedure which has been found to be highly efficacious in ridding land of ground squirrels, woodchucks, and other burrowing animals and which would doubtless prove efficacious in controlling skunks, is the fumigation of their burrows with calcium cyanide. In view of the restrictions in many States with regard to the distribution of poisons, this latter method might very advantageously be adopted on golf courses. Calcium cyanide when exposed to the air generates a gas that is deadly poisonous to animal life of all kinds, and care should be used in handling it to avoid serious or fatal injury. Two or three ounces of calcium cyanide flakes may be placed, by means of a long-handled spoon, well back into each opening of the burrow, and the opening then closed by means of sod and earth. This method should be effective if the animals are in dens in reasonably level, open country. Should failure result from an attempt to fumigate the burrows by placing the calcium cyanide by hand into the openings, a blowing apparatus may be obtained from manufacturers of calcium cyanide by which the chemical may be forced through the burrows in the form of a dust.

Some U. S. Golf Association Decisions on the Rules of Golf

In playing from the tee the ball rolled off the tee while the stroke was being made, the player half topping the ball and knocking it into a practically unplayable lie. He reteed a ball with a penalty stroke and played the second ball. Was he subject to a penalty?

DECISION.—Rule 2 under "General and Through the Green" covers the point. The ball was in play when the player struck it, but under the rule there was no penalty stroke added on account of the play being made while the ball was in motion. The player was within his rights to retee the ball and play it if he should decide it was in an unplayable lie under Rule 22.

A four-ball foresome playing a match decided to adjust the odds after they had played the first 9 holes. One pair won the 9 by one up. They then gave the losers one-half on the second 9, and this pair won the second 9 through the handicap of one-half hole. The first pair claimed that they won the match by one-half up. They claimed to have won the match by the difference of one-half hole as they won the first 9 by one hole and lost the second 9 by the half-hole handicap which they allowed the second pair. The second pair claimed that there was no such thing as a half-hole and that as they won the second 9 the match was square. Which is correct?

DECISION.—The situation you describe is not covered by the Rules of Golf; it must be decided on equity, as it is only a question of mathematics. One side (which we shall call A) was one up at the 9th hole and gave the other side (which we shall call B) a handicap of one-half hole. This therefore left side A one-half hole up. Apparently the last 9 holes were played evenly, which would therefore still leave side A one-half hole up and winners of the match by this