

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 topped the ball and knocking it into a practically unplayable lie. He reteeed 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

fraction. Undoubtedly if the handicap had been one hole the match would have been square. If the handicap had been anything less than one hole it seems that side A would have won by the difference between the fraction given and the one hole.

A player's ball came to rest about one foot under the branches of a bush where the branches lay on the ground and over the ball. To shoot toward the hole the player had to take his stance backed into the bush. To do this he lifted the branches and bent them back, holding them in place with his body while making the shot. In doing so he of course improved his chance to hit the ball. Did he incur an penalty?

DECISION.—Rule 15 under "General and Through the Green" covers this point. The player is entitled to take his stance under the conditions mentioned in the best possible manner that he can without breaking anything fixed or growing and without bending any fixed object more than necessary in order to take his stance. If the player in bending branches improved his chance to hit at the ball he infringed the above rule.

Gorse and Broom

The following additional information on these two shrubby plants is contributed by Mr. Leonard Biles, golf professional, The Homestead, Hot Springs, Va., reference being made to the article on the subject appearing in the BULLETIN, December, 1925, page 283:

"In 1914, after a visit to England, I brought back with me 1 pint of gorse seeds. At that time I was connected with and had charge of the course of the Sleepy Hollow Country Club, at Scarborough-on-the-Hudson. I picked out what I thought to be a good and suitable spot and planted these seeds myself. They made fine headway all through the summer and fall, each plant averaging 8 or 9 inches in height, and looking healthy and strong. In order to protect them through the winter I put a light covering of hay around the roots and part way up the plants. The first winter I lost over 75 percent of the plants, and the ones that were left made no headway the following summer and died the following winter. Two years later, when I was constructing the course for the Wianno Club, on Cape Cod, Mass., I again tried it, but met with no success, the plants there all dying the first winter. I had hoped, on the lighter soil on Cape Cod, which more nearly approaches the soil conditions on which this plant apparently thrives in Great Britain, to get good results; but the winter seems too hard for it. It states in your articles that gorse occurs on the Atlantic coast from the vicinity of Nantucket Island southward to Virginia. I would say that I never saw it on Cape Cod, which is close to Nantucket Island. I know the coast of Virginia very well, and I can not say that I ever saw whins, as the plants are called in Scotland (gorse or furze, in England), anywhere along the coast. Broom grows prolifically on the Virginia coast, and there are a number of varieties of it, which possibly may be mistaken for gorse; but as for gorse such as we used to hack at with niblicks as kids in the Old Country, I must say I have never seen the true variety on this side of the Atlantic."