

others lay prone on the ground and tried to peer between cracks in the living wall, others got tangled up in the rope and rolled ignominiously in the sand bunkers, in fact the links presented one wild scene of confusion. Too much cannot be said in praise of the council of the Troon Golf Club, who did their utmost to remedy the matter, but it was a hopeless undertaking. The crowd was of such enormous proportions that it was simply impossible to impose any strong check upon it. It is undoubtedly an amusing experience to look back upon, but at the time it was by no means so amusing. This is generally the case, however, as one very rarely grasps the full force of a funny situation until the whole thing is over.

THE CAMERA FIEND.

A frequent source of amusement to scratch and plus golfers is the way in which they are often regarded on small out-of-the-way links. The local talent is not perhaps of a very high caliber so when one of these swells with a big reputation arrives upon the scene he or she is regarded as a perfect marvel. Every stroke is applauded with wild enthusiasm, the great one can do no wrong, and if any one is sufficiently bold to criticize, he only dare do so with bated breath. The scratch player enjoys it thoroughly, but at the same time feels a regular fraud knowing quite well that he is by no means the seventh wonder of the world, but only a very ordinary golfer on a par with 20 or 30 others. It is a great event, however, in the club annals, and the youthful geniuses of the village model their style on that of the great player, and kittens and puppies innumerable are honored by being christened with the magic name.

Another amusing incident of the game is the camera fiend. Now-a-days nine people out of ten carry cameras, and although it sometimes becomes a nuisance, it often gives rise to funny incidents. To be entreated piteously to pose for a stroke is very flattering perhaps, but when the request also comes to be sure and look at the camera instead of at the ball the golfer feels it is time to draw the line. Also when a snap-shooter takes up his position directly in a line for the hole in blissful ignorance that he is in imminent peril of his life, one feels imperatively that some remonstrance must be made even at the risk of hurting his feelings. These photographs when reproduced in the illustrated newspapers are not always a joy, in fact frequently very much the reverse, but those who go in for reputations have to put up with discomforts.

The photographer is one of the many types of spectators to be seen in a large gallery. He hurries along with his camera under his arm trying to secure a good point of vantage, with the sun in the proper place and everything satisfactory, only unfortunately he is often bitterly disappointed by some untoward circumstance, such as the crowd pressing hopelessly in front, or the players giving up the hole before reaching the green. He is never discouraged, however, but always comes up smiling again ready to rush to the next favorable position. Another well known figure on the links is the reporter, who plods steadily round with large notebook ready at hand to make copious notes of the different strokes.

SPECTATORS AND THE BEGINNERS.

Then there are the anxious relatives, some flurried and worried, murmuring why, oh why, was such a stroke made, or how could E— be so silly as to miss such a short putt; others calm and self-contained on the surface, not displaying much feeling, but probably in an inward ferment. There are the partisans of each side taking a keen interest in the game and exerting their will power to the utmost to make their favorite win. There are those who have no keen interest in either side but dispassionately judge the players on their merits and are keenly critical of the method in which each shot is played. A motley crew indeed, but all alike absorbed in the game, watching the progress of each stroke with the keenest interest.

To turn to the more general types or classes of golfers. First and foremost comes the beginner, who is struggling through the weary weeks of his apprenticeship. Plunged either in the depths of despair or raised to the summit of bliss, the type is very familiar and one often wonders at the patience displayed by these novices and at their steady perseverance through every kind of discouragement and difficulties. After the first few months they begin to take a keen interest in golf literature and read with avidity every word that is published on the subject, opening the newspaper in the morning at the golf column, and collecting magazines and books of instruction of every description. They assimilate instruction eagerly, by reading and watching good golf, that is to say the really keen and interested beginners do so, and they are always on the lookout for advice and counsel. There are a few who are content simply to play for something to do, who do not take the trouble to improve themselves but drag on in the same old way, not conquering bad habits, but simply struggling round the links and trusting to luck to carry them through victorious. These, however, are very much in the minority, and the keen beginner is far the more frequently to be met with.

The most tiresome form of golfer is the egoist. He is so full of his own play that he can neither think nor talk of anything else. If you play a round with him, he recapitulates all his strokes of the previous round, and points out places from which at some other period he has made magnificent strokes. He does not grasp the fact that he is boring his listener horribly, but goes steadily on recounting story after story until one longs to hit him over the head with a niblick. The pleasure of golf is largely in being able to retail the events of a round to a sympathetic friend, but there is moderation in all things, and the egoist is quite beyond the pale—*Mary E. L. Hazlet, in Washington Star.*

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