

treatment, but fall under the general head of woven baskets. The flat splints are usually shaved from a log by special machines so adjustable that the splint may be any width or degree of thinness. Rough baskets can be made by hewing the splints by hand, but it is a very laborious process, the inner bark of the poplar tree, stripped when the sap is flowing freely, is used for home-made splint or wicker baskets. Factory baskets are made of white oak, ash, or poplar. Palmetto is also shredded into strips of equal width by a machine, and it is really cheaper, if one's labor has any value, to buy the shredded palm than to try to strip it by hand. We think that every native material our amateur basket-makers are likely to discover can be treated under one of the above heads.

—HARRIET CUSHMAN WILKIE.

GRAVITY FOILED.

Without Underspin Flight of Golf Ball Would be Short.

Professor Petrie Guthrie Tait had little skill at golf, but a vast deal at science. Among the many problems to which he applied his genius were some concerning that apparently simple thing, the flight of a golf ball. And here he found difficulties so baffling that, though he worked over them for years and called on other scientists for assistance, many mysteries still remained. One question that he solved, however, is of curious interest.

The force of gravity is the one force we know as most constant and inevitable. To defeat gravity is almost to suspend one of Nature's laws. In his investigations, Professor Tait suddenly became aware that gravity was defeated by the golf ball. The fact admitted no doubt. On timing the flight of the ball, he discovered that it remained in the air almost twice as long as it should under the influence of gravity. Thus, with gravity acting as usual on other things, a drive of two hundred yards would be completed in three and a half seconds. A thrown ball, for example, describing the same trajectory, would remain in the air only that length of time. The golf ball, in passing over that two hundred yards, floated serenely through the air for six and a half seconds.

It was clear, then, that in some manner gravity was thwarted. Professor Tait attacked the problem of the means and in the end he found it. After searching long, he found the cause of the prolonged flight in the rotation given to the ball by the club's impact. The secret lay in the manner of the stroke from the tee.

The first principle of the explanation is in the simple fact that an object poised in the air has an equal atmospheric pressure on it at all points. The second principle is that when a sphere rotates in a current of air, the side of the sphere which is advancing to meet the current is subjected to greater pressure than is that side which is moving in the direction of the current. To illustrate, when the golfer slices his ball, it is made to spin in such fashion that its front side is constantly in movement to the right. Therefore, the pressure of the air is

greater on the left side than on the right, and the ball curves to the right. When the ball is pulled, the operation is reversed, and the flight bends away to the left. So, if the ball is topped, the spinning direction of the front is downward. Thus, the pull of gravity is aided and the flight is swiftly checked. But every properly driven ball receives an underspin. By the underspin thus imparted, the front side of the ball is made to spin upward; the added pressure is from below, and is, in consequence, directly opposed to gravity. The result is a flight sustained but little less than twice as long as it would be without this underspin. Moreover, Professor Tait demonstrated that, without this underspin when driving, the ball would travel only about half its usual distance.

The ordinary golfer is quite unaware that he gives any underspin to his best drives; but he does. Without the underspin, his driving would be a continuous failure.

Bridge at The Mecklenburg.

CHASE CITY, VA.—Bridge parties have been well to the fore at The Mecklenburg in furnishing entertainment for the week, while the lovely weather has proved a drawing card to the Northern visitors. Everything is taking on a Springlike air, with budding trees and flowers beginning to push upward. Several fox hunts have kept the hunters on the go, a large one taking place on Thursday, Mr. Shelburne getting the brush. The hunting lodge has also been a popular rendezvous during the week.

Mrs. W. O. Ludovici of New York, gave a farewell bridge party the evening prior to her departure; dainty refreshments were served and a very handsome prize was won by Mrs. W. G. Peterson of Connecticut, and Mrs. W. P. Whitaker of Virginia.

Unusually enjoyable was the sacred concert Sunday evening, with singing by Miss Ellen Norfleet of North Carolina, W. C. Lloyd of New York, and E. T. Beasley of Virginia.

AMONG THE GUESTS.

Mr. Alphonzo Hart, Ex-Governor of Ohio, is enjoying an extended stay. Mr. and Mrs. Chas. A. Graham of Philadelphia, will remain several weeks. Mrs. George C. Pettis of New Haven, Conn., is also here.

Recent arrivals from North Carolina are Jos. W. Burwell and W. D. Burwell of Henderson, Miss Ellen Norfleet, of Winston, Pattie Moring of Raleigh, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Hill of Durham, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. N. Bissert, Miss Laura Blake Young of Raleigh.


Mrs. J. C. Neil of Columbus, Ohio, came this week. Popular guests from New York are Mrs. Thomas W. Dixon, Jr., and Miss Louise Dixon. Mr. and Mrs. Coleman of Harristown, Pa., are late arrivals. Mrs. A. E. Huston of New York, was a recent guest.

Other late comers are Mr. and Mrs. Bert G. Hathaway and Mrs. G. L. Anderson of Washington, Mr. Jas. L. Cottrell of Richmond and Mrs. Arthur Herring and Miss Louise Herring of Brooklyn.

Village Club Meeting.

The next meeting of the Pinehurst Village Club will be held in The Holly Inn Dutch room, Wednesday afternoon, March 18.

FOR SHOTGUNS
AND RIFLES



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