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## IT IS BARELY POSSIBLE!

And If't Be So We Offer Our  
Humble Editorial Apologies



IT IS barely possible that we—editorial usage, please—originated that ancient joke about wearing a hunting martingale on the golf course to avoid a tendency to look up, *anticipate* where the ball—“Whippet” naturally—was going, or was *expected to go!* If we did we—editorial usage, please—forget along with the facts about the story about the sheep swallowing the ball, and the Jewish gentlemen who was willing to settle for less than “fore.”

But this is idle; incidentally to provide space for our “decorative” initial ornament, and, primarily, to offer our—editorial usage, please—apologies, *for the fact is a gent up in Worcester*, which is in Massachusetts, *has invented just such a devise!* \* \* \* Gwan! \* \* \* Well, read what the *Worcester Telegram*, oracle of truth, has to say. ¶ Our *only*—that’s what they call *The Telegram*—regret is that we can’t print the picture which accompanies the story: ¶ Worcester has long been recognized as a center of inventive genius and one of the recent patents granted to a Worcester man is certain to bring added prominence to Worcester in this respect. ¶ Most of the inventions by Worcester men have been in the industrial line, but this latest one has to do with recreation. It has to do with a sport that has at the present time about 2,000,000 devotees, and is increasing at the rate of about 100,000 new players each year.

This game is golf, and the invention is a device which will help to improve the game of about 99 out of every 100 players. ¶ Francis Ouimet, national amateur champion, says the invention is the greatest and best aid to the game he has ever seen. ¶ The inventor is Dr. John T. McGillicuddy, a member of the Worcester Country Club, and one of the closest students of the game.

This invention of Dr. McGillicuddy is a simple device which should prove a big help in making players keep their eye on the ball until it has been hit. The fault of lifting the eye before hitting the ball is the most common fault in the game of golf, and probably the most injurious to a player. ¶ The device consists of a belt that fits around the chest of the player. To this belt is attached an elastic rubber tube, on the end of which is a rubber mouthpiece. When a player is about to hit a ball, he places his rubber mouthpiece between his teeth before making his swing. The rubber tube is so adjusted that the head is kept in a lowered position and any tendency that comes to the player to lift his head while making the stroke, is sufficiently checked by the elastic tube to make the player realize that he must keep his head facing the ball.

According to Dr. Gillicuddy, who has made an exhaustive study of the conditions of the human body during the process of making a stroke, a player is in a subconscious state of mind when making

a stroke in golf. ¶ He claims that no player can tell exactly how he makes a stroke and hits a ball fairly. He has his mind on the stroke before making the swing, but during the swing his mind is practically a blank and the stroke is made by will and memory, or what is called by many people subconsciousness.

He says that this indicates that neither reason nor understanding enter into the actual making of a stroke, or a man would be able to explain how he gets the result. This also shows that golf is not a game of the mind but is back to nature. ¶ In comparing golf with other games, Dr. McGillicuddy says: “Practically all the other games, baseball, football, tennis, hockey, basketball, soccer and even bowling, are games in which the mind is working at all times and must work in order that the games may be played successfully. Take for instance a baseball or a football player. He does nothing subconsciously. Every action must be thought out quickly and the mind must be working at all times during the action. It is the same with the other sports.

“One action of subconsciousness which seems to me to be similar to the making of a stroke in golf, is the action of a cat in making a spring to catch a bird or a mouse. The cat does not mentally think of the distance that has to be covered in making a spring. The cat watches the game and then makes the spring at the right time and lands where it expected to. ¶ “People may tell of all the necessary motions and positions that have to be obtained in golf, but most of these are not essential. ¶ “Stance, for instance, does not amount to much, for there is a one-legged player out West and a one-legged player cannot master stance, and Botcozen, the one-armed player, entered the British championships last year. Stance and swing must be taught by professionals.

“There are only two players in Worcester, Bob Fuller and Sam Sterne—(We used to know Bob)—who know where a ball is going when they hit it. Some others think they know, but they are usually fooling themselves. ¶ “Web Thayer—(we used to hunt foxes with Web)—once made a shot on the old Worcester Country Club course, sending the ball from the eighth bunker to the green. He claims he knew how he did it, but never has been able to do it again. ¶ “If these things are so, it is shown that we are stimulated to perform these actions in golf by our highest sense, which is that of seeing. In order to see, we must control the head. The difficulty in this is that the muscles in the back of our heads are much stronger than those in front. This makes the tendency to raise the head as one is about to hit the ball in order to see where it is going. ¶ “In order not to raise the head these muscles must be trained.

“We have seen Ouimet, MacNamara, Brady—(we all know Francis, Tom and Mike)—and other stars in action in Worcester, and while they do not all use the same stroke, all are thoroughly trained to