

## Concerning Golf

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the Press as twenty-eight I do not profess to know; actually he is thirty-two.

The final itself between Woollam and Dale Bourn is past history, and it would perhaps be uncharitable to resurrect it from the obscurity into which it has by now so deservedly fallen. Suffice to say that never can a man have emerged so thoroughly pricked by thorns as Bourn must have been. I could not help recalling as I followed him, in one of the moments when I was not dodging furtively behind the nearest tree trunk to escape his errant ball, the words of the Vicar of Northampton who remarked to his partner in a foursome in which I was playing, "You seem very partial to the furze, brother!"

It seemed that he could do nothing right—except perhaps to putt, though even on the greens fate seemed against him—and until he pulled himself together late in the day his opponent was little better. I am convinced that Banks, and indeed at least eight other players, would have beaten either of them. Some, in fact, could have played their best ball. All of which is rather unkind, since these two had played their way fairly and squarely into the coveted position and deserve every credit for it, while the rest had fallen by the wayside. My fellow scribe, Mr. F. G. L. Fairlie, would claim, I suppose, that their appearance in the final constitutes yet one more nail in the coffin of 18-hole championships. That, however, is a subject into which at the moment I refuse to be drawn, though I will go so far as to say that I am still disinclined to agree with him.

The winner, who had been in training for



MR. ANGUS HAMBRO AND MR. ROBERT HARRIS (Bombay Medal Winner) AT ST. ANDREWS

It seems hardly necessary to say that this picture of Mr. Robert Harris was taken *after* he had won the Bombay Medal at the Annual Spring Meeting of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St. Andrews. Mr. Harris' score was 77

some months specially for this event, is a particularly fine iron player. In these days the old-fashioned phrase about "playing safe with an iron" has tended so much to become "playing safe with a spoon," it is the more gratifying to find a man who can still bang an iron shot time after time to the middle of the green. I was greatly impressed by Woollam's second shot to the long sixth hole at Ganton. The green is surrounded by bunkers and Bourn, after one of his inevitable rambles in the gorse, had played either three or four, I forget which—it was so difficult to keep count—and was still not on the green, whereupon Woollam, after a preliminary address with a wooden club, changed it for an iron and played a dead straight shot every bit of 230 yards to the edge of the green. Sarazen played an exactly similar shot in his last round in the Open last year at the seventeenth at Prince's.

Everyone was pleased with at least one aspect of the championship—the course on which it was played. The English Women's Championship had been held there, but it was the first time it had been honoured by the men. None, I think, regretted it, nor was anyone able to cite a better test of golf. The English Golf Union were a little annoyed at the "lack of courtesy" of the Royal and Ancient in not sending an official representative, but I really do not see why they should have done. Though I no longer mingle with the transatlantic pilgrims who admire his chair, his pipes, and his dictionary in the Cheshire Cheese, I must confess to being a staunch admirer of Dr. Samuel Johnson. If the English Golf Union are conversant with his sayings, they may perhaps recollect that he once remarked: "Sir, the King of Siam sent ambassadors to Louis the Fourteenth, but Louis the Fourteenth sent none to the King of Siam."



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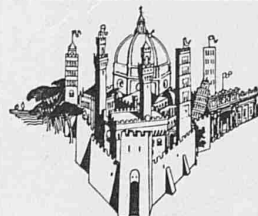
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