GOLF AND GOLFERS.

MOYLAKE SUPPORTS A COUNTY UNION.

It is very good to learn, on the authority of Mr. H. E. Howard in this week's "Golf Illustrated," that the Moylake Club has decided to throw in its lot with the new Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs. Some weeks ago, when announcing that such a union was in the formative stage, I expressed the opinion that the Royal Liverpool Club had the fate of the proposed Cheshire Union in the hollow of its hand. As a matter of fact, the Royal Liverpool held a great deal more than the fate of the union in its grasp, and it will be very good news to Yorkshire golfers, who have always been staunch adherents to the county union idea, that that great club has thrown in its lot with and the right of the county, big and little. As Mr. Howard quite rightly says: "Five clubs will live in history as the trustees of the game's administration in its period of evolution—the Royal and Ancient, Honourable Company, Prestwick, Royal Liverpool, and Royal St. George"—and although some others which may fade in an age that tends more and more towards democratic control, the support of these associations and traditions will always be essential to the prosperity of new schemes. A Cheshire Union would have carried little weight if Royal Liverpool had held aloof. I would go a little further and say that the difficulties in form of the Cheshire Union would have been Moylake initiative would have been almost insuperable.

Writing in his London atmosphere, Mr. Howard discusses the old objections to county unions, and even, in this atmosphere, by quoting the example of the Yorkshire Union of Golf Clubs he comes to the conclusion that all the old objections are the merest bugbears. He gives an credit that the Yorkshire Union has "fostered the game in that county in a manner beyond reproach, and secured of complete administration." We bow in acknowledgment, and feel that the compliment is deserved. In Yorkshire we know that we have set an example to the whole of the country in regard to golfing organization, and our experience during the last 21 years or more is freely at the disposal of newer bodies forming on the same lines. They have the advantage of following a well trodden path, and can, if they will, profit by the mistakes—very few—which were made by the pioneers.

What will be of real interest to which is the effect which a really solid Cheshire Union, including Hoylake, will have on the still struggling Lancashire Union of Golf Clubs. As I have previously remarked in this column the excuse of certain Lancashire clubs for not coming into the union has been "We are too big to pay the excess of the very low fee of the Yorkshire clubs which remain outside the Union has been "We are too small to join, we have to do so some day." If Hoylake, which is for the time being being of any English club, comes into the county union movement—and all honour to it for doing—what is to be the attitude of such clubs as Birkdale, Formby, Lytham and St. Anne's, and West Lancashire, who in an "opposition" spirit still hold aloof from their fellow golfers, who are forced to play on Lancashire dried courses, Hoylake, which has the two greatest amateur golfers of our time, Mr. John Ball and Mr. Harold Hilton, and is playing strongly today, is probably stronger than any of any other English club, which is prestige in the matter of golfing traditions is only first south of the Tweed. If the Royal Liverpool is really backing the new Cheshire Union, some clubs in Lancashire must reconsider their views on county unions, and it is a fact thought I would suggest that one or two Yorkshire clubs might review their attitude of total aloofness to the Yorkshire Union. As the late Mr. Gladstone once said, "Examples of rare intelligence, yet non-cultivated, are not lacking in this kingdom at the moment, they live on here in their good deeds and in their untutored memories." The Yorkshire clubs should, in regard to the County Union, realise all that is contained in the old phrase "Jealous dotage, and unreasonable fear." Let us, for the "Spirit of Golf" sake, be "Friends and Mates."

Just before the war an enterprising firm, foreseeing a shortage of lockers clubs, contrived to make golf clubs with hollow steel shafts. So far as the "form and make" were concerned, they differed in no respect except the material of the shaft from the clubs then in use—and, I have several of them myself, and have never been able to discover any special advantage arising from their use. They are just ordinary well-made, well-balanced clubs, which conform strictly to golfing traditions. Yet the Royal Golf Committee "frowned" on these, and the powers which they took, after the introduction of the Schenectady putter from America, to regulate the "form and make of golf clubs." Why they did so I could never understand. They tolerated club heads of wood, iron, or aluminium, and the greatest latitude was allowed in the design of these heads. But when it came to the metallic construction of the shaft, they "frowned" it was pointed out, somewhat tardily at the time, that St. Andrews had a few years ago used steel shafts, and that some of the old school of club makers protested that it was too late in life for them to "turn Blacksmiths." The "frown" in the rules Committee says that it will not sanction "any substantial departure from the traditional and accepted form and make of golf clubs, which, in its opinion, consists of a plain shaft and a head which does not contain any mechanical contrivance, such as springs." It makes illegal the use of mallet-headed clubs, and those which have the head so bent as to produce a similar effect. The steel shafted clubs contravened none of these provisions, and the Committee banned it.

I recall the case to inquire whether the attention of the Committee has been called to certain clubs now on the market in regard to which it would seem that a ruling is desirable if the "traditional and accepted" form of golf club is to be maintained. These clubs are made of aluminium, and are electrical in shape, resembling more the "Sphinx" than any form recognized by and fixed on a shaft. A pretty "substantial departure" this from the traditional form and shape of golf club, if the general purposes club the advertisement states that it "can be used with excellent effect for shots from the tee or through the green. The length of shot is only limited by the drawing skill of the owner." Again, the price is not contained. Rough grass lies are readily neutralized. The club cuts neither turf nor ball, and its peculiar shape allows a "clean strike" to occur." Many golfers have expressed doubts as to their legality, but the points are still "vexed" up by a division of the Rules Committee.

LAYED AND THE EXACT JONES METHOD.

"The description of the Exact Jones method, as set forth in "The Secret of the Golf Swing," by Darsy Harmonicz, and recently reviewed in this column, is of particular interest to the Jones, writes my lady correspondent, because that method has been proved to be the favourite number of lady players. It was quite remarkable at the English championship at Sheringham this year how many found golfers inspiration in the policy, the most recently of Mr. Jones, who found such salvation in a conversation on the application of power by and through the fine finger and thumb, that she repeatedly the game such that her every time the war, and actually took Miss Cecil Leitch to the nineteenth hole. Mr. Dogan particular trouble has been putting her head forward as the fine finger and thumb, that hitting with the four finger and thumb, strange as it sounds, proved a permanent cure. Two other lesser lights followed suit, and personal application was equally successful, and certainly looks as if Jones had a real gift, and the success of his pupils is also amazing, notably Miss Hilda Priest, whose style is acknowledged to be so convincing as any lady that plays. She has been on the fringe of real greatness for the last year, only kept from attaining it by weakness on the green, and it should not be long before she really "arrives." A certain bumpiness of finger work is often a particular fault of lady golfers, and so for them the book in question should prove of special value, which is quite sufficient excuse for a return to the subject.

SPORTING NEWS.

NOTES BY JULIUS.

A cold wet weather turned out much better than expected on Saturday. The morning will be brought to a conclusion to-day, when the programme will again embrace six events. The principal one is the Middlesex Steeple Chase Handicap, run over two miles, and worth 600 sovs. For this I am inclined to fancy

HAIRPIN II.

though if Turkey Buzzard rate be more to my liking. My selections are as follows:—

1.0—Barnes Three-Year-Old Selling Hurdle Race—Another Saint.
1.30—Hampton Selling Steeple Chase—Mad Mary.
2.0—Middlesex Steeple Chase Handicap—Hairpin II., owner, Turkey Buzzard.
2.30—Staines Hurdle Handicap—Jim.
3.0—Hainault Steeple Chase—Procurator.
3.30—Sunbury Hurdle Race—Golly Eye.

RACING SELECTIONS.

FROM THIS MORNING'S LONDON PAPERS.

KEMPTON PARK MEETING.
MIDDLESEX HURDLE CHASE HANDICAP.
Stockbridge Wyllens—Turkey Buzzard. Prior.
Lord Lonsdale's—Lady Jane Grey.
Sporting Life Selections.
Daily Mirror—Hairpin. Prior Rose.
Sporting Chronicle—Hairpin. Prior Rose.
Daily Graphic—Hairpin.
Daily Sketch—Hairpin.
BARNES THREE-YEAR-OLD SELLING HURDLE RACE—Sportsman (Agnew). Rose Garden, Another Saint, Gleaner, Nancy, Jacobite, Lily Ann, Mad Mary, Mr. Pickwick, Mr. Pickwick, Hailing, Daily Express—Another Saint.
HAMPTON SELLING STEEPLE CHASE—Sportsman (Bennion on Sportsman). Rabat from the Ruhr, Mad Mary, Mr. Pickwick, Mr. Pickwick, Daily Graphic—Mad Mary. Daily Sketch—Mr. Pickwick.
STAINES HURDLE HANDICAP—Sportsman (Agnew). Jim, Jim, Jim,