

LUTON v. NORTHAMPTON.

LUTON'S THIRD CONSECUTIVE DRAW.

These two clubs met in the above League for the first time this season on Boxing Day, before a large holiday crowd of 3,000 on the Town ground. This is the first season of the Midland club in the League, but up-to-date they have fully justified their inclusion. Both clubs had strong teams in the field, Street and R. Hawkes playing vice Sharp and Williams in the Luton team, while our old friend Saxton figured at right half in place of Pell, who had missed his train, in the visitors' ranks. Mr. F. S. Walford, of Ponder's End, was the referee, and he had the following 22 under his command :

Luton: Ord; Lindsay and Street; F. Hawkes, White, and R. Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Brown, Tierney and Colvin.

Northampton: Cook; Bennett and Turner; Saxton, Murrell, and Howe; Frost, Chapman, Farrell, Coleman and Lawrence.

The visitors won the toss, and Brown started the game for Luton against the wind. Blessington caused Cook to handle, and Ord had to clear from Lawrence. Some effective work by Durrant was nullified by a bad finish, and Ord was called upon twice in succession to clear attacks by the opposing forwards. Blessington was given offside when in a good position, and the home team forced fruitless corners, while a good attempt by Brown went just by the post. Tierney did likewise from a pass by White, and Colvin forced Cook to clear a warm handful, but the keeper was equal to the occasion.

Two "frees" to each side were futile, and at this period the visitors were pressing Luton severely, and for some moments the ball was hovering in dangerous proximity to the Luton goal, but at length Colvin got away, and Tierney put in two grand shots from the centre, but Cook saved in fine style on each occasion. Cook also saved grandly from R. Hawkes, and Brown shot over, while the keeper cleared a well-meant effort by Blessington. Luton tried desperately hard to open the score before the interval, but all their efforts were frustrated, half-time arriving with

No score.

On resuming, the visitors at once got away, and forced a fruitless corner, and Ord had to save from Farrell. Each side was awarded a fruitless free-kick, and the visitors forced a corner, but Luton cleared. Luton now took up the running, and Cook made two grand saves from Durrant and Colvin, while Blessington just shot by the post with a fine drive. A bad foul on Tierney by Bennett was duly penalised, but the kick availed Luton nought, and Cook saved nicely from Hawkes. Three "frees" to Luton were fruitless, and each side forced a corner in turn, but both proved futile. Tierney missed badly with only Cook to beat, and Luton forced three corners, but all were cleared by the visitors. Neither team could gain a point, and the result of a fast game was :

Luton 0. Northampton 0.