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The average man does not greatly exert himself on Christmas Day ; but the lot of the professional footballer, like that of the policeman, is not always a happy one, and so the "blues" were compelled to travel into Northamptonshire on Wednesday to play a Southern League game at "the holy city."

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This was the second journey made by the Lutonians into the neighbouring county during the week, and it was concluded that they had a more difficult task at Kettering than at Wellingborough on Saturday, for the "Ketts" play a very strong game on their peculiarly formed pitch.

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That the Luton men can perform very well away from home was once more demonstrated, and their success in obtaining a League point at the expense of the Midlanders must be regarded as highly creditable. To be perfectly frank, I must say that I was agreeably surprised by the result.

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It is not a little remarkable that the outcome was exactly similar to that of the encounter at Wellingborough. To share the points with the locals is more than most of the Southern League sides are likely to do on the Kettering ground.

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The conditions were not by any means of the best, for the ground was in a bad state in consequence of the recent thaw. The game was pleasantly conducted, however, and so all was well.

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To Brown is due the credit of notching both goals for the "blues." The centre-forward was well supported, and the team as a whole is deserving of congratulation for a capital result.

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I notice that one report of the game states : " Dame Fortune did not smile upon Kettering yesterday, for, after having admittedly the lion's share of the play, the points were divided." A critic in the *Daily Chronicle*, however, observes that "Luton played very good football at Kettering and deserved the point allowed."

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The match on Boxing Day produced the third successive draw. Singular to relate, these all resulted from tussles with Northamptonshire teams. It seems that the old-time rivalry and the tradition of closely contested games is not altogether a thing of the past.



Bearing in mind some fine performances by the "cobblers," I was not very sanguine of success for the Lutonians, and after having witnessed the game I am bound to say that the chances of the "blues" winning when they visit Northampton are not very rosy.



The lowly position of the Northants team in the League is somewhat of a puzzle to me. There is no doubt that it is one of the smartest combinations in the competition, and surely ought to be occupying a better place in the table.



Of course the state of the ground on Thursday was all against scientific football. Yet we had plenty of it. The exhibition given by the visitors was exceedingly pretty, the delicate touches and neat passes by Farrell and his comrades being greatly admired.



The homesters, though less artistic, were a good deal more businesslike in their methods than were their antagonists, and again it has to be said that their mid-field play was first-rate.



Once more the charge has to be brought against the home forwards that they were shockingly weak in front of goal. With the chances that presented

themselves the home quintette ought to have scored several goals.

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It is not denied that Cook, the Northampton keeper, was exceedingly lucky. Three at least of the saves he effected were very fluky. On one occasion in particular, it seemed any odds on a goal being scored. But the "goalie" managed in some extraordinary fashion to get in the way and so the hopes of the locals were disappointed.

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Perhaps, after all, a draw may be described as a suitable outcome. What the locals lacked in point of skill as compared with the strangers they made up for in determination and dash. There was a good deal of miskicking, though.

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The Northampton men were minus the services of Pell at half-back and Saxton (who now plays for Northampton and formerly figured in the Luton forward ranks) was pressed into service at half-back.

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Farrell, the visiting centre forward, gave a display that was justly admired. It was really a first-rate one and was remarkable for accurate and pretty passing. Lawrence showed a fine turn of speed at outside left.

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The Northampton halves were a workmanlike trio, and the backs were highly capable. Cook, as I have indicated, enjoyed plenty of luck.

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Ord played a fine game in the home goal, and Lindsay was in rare form. Street on the whole did well, though he miskicked too frequently. The halves were good, with R. Hawkes most prominent.

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Colvin was responsible for some superb centres and more than one ought to have been turned to account. Towards the end he was noticed to be incapacitated, an injury to one of his legs being the trouble.

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Of the other forwards Blessington was the most conspicuous. He passed beautifully and always unselfishly and his shooting was excellent. Tierney worked like a Trojan, and Brown was ubiquitous, while Durrant was repeatedly in evidence.

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That the efforts of the players were fully appreciated was evidenced by the enthusiasm of the spectators, who were by no means sparing in their plaudits.

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Three points in three matches is not a very rapid rate of progression, perhaps; but bearing in mind that two of them were obtained on foreign soil I conclude that the holiday matches have so far been satisfactory in point of results.

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