

Football Notes and News.

By "Grasshopper."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v PLYMOUTH ARGYLE.

In Plymouth Argyle, Luton had a hard nut to crack on Saturday, and I think we did very well in dividing the points. I don't know what the visitors would have done if they had been at full strength. Their regular goalkeeper was away, and they were also short of a couple of their regular players. At any rate their custodian never made a single mistake, and he successfully negotiated a number of difficult shots, whilst they certainly were able somehow to find a couple of first-class substitutes.

A Plymouth supporter told me that this was one reason why the visitors would be very thankful indeed if they made a draw.

Thus they got what they desired, and on the afternoon's exhibition, I think it was a fair result.

The rain came down in torrents all the time, and the pitch was sodden and greasy—so much that the players occasionally demonstrated to the crowd what they could also do as contortionists. "Spills" were indeed frequent, and when the men fell, they were apt to slide for yards. Their knickers, arms, and faces were covered with mud and slush, but still they pegged at it. Bennett caused roars of laughter by a certain incident. His second pair of white knickers were soon as dirty as the former pair.

Luton played Moody in place of Turner, and taking into consideration the fact that he has not played for so long, I don't think he was in the least disappointing.

Saturday's match should serve to give a couple of lessons. Plymouth are a magnificent team, and though it was a battle of giants right through, I cannot help thinking that the visitors played a prettier game. The combination was a particularly prominent feature, and their halves were three tricky players. But not only did they show capital combination, but they have the knack of getting the ball away very smartly. With Plymouth there is no holding on to the ball, and when they do part with it they take good care that it is not given to an opponent. They are deadly shots, too. There is nothing like banging the ball away, and on Saturday they several times came within an ace of scoring.

Don't let it be inferred from this that Plymouth had it all their own way, because it was not so. Luton had their fair share of the play. But the forwards were again weak. Allsopp ought to have scored once, if not twice in the first half, and I cannot think where McKee's head was. Our centre-forward feeds his wings admirably, but he seldom takes an opportunity of shooting for the net himself. Durrant found himself opposed by a back of exceptional calibre, and Jack was so carefully watched that he never got much of a chance.

I think Bob Hawkes tries to cover too much ground. It is all very well to be always "in the thick of it," but Bob might come off better if he reserved himself a little and kept more in line with his partners. Thompson saved in fine style. I don't think any of the others need much comment.

In the Southern League matches on Saturday there was no great upset of form, Portsmouth and Bristol Rovers winning away from home against Swindon and Brentford respectively, while Southampton beat Fulham, and Luton drew with Plymouth Argyle. No change takes place, therefore, in the positions of the three top clubs, but by reason of fewer games played Luton still possess a good chance of finishing on top.