

# SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

## LUTON v. QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS.

### A DRAW—NO GOALS.

Owing to their engagement in the Cup on the 1st inst., Queen's Park Rangers visited Luton on Wednesday, and managed to share the points. Their performance, however, was a little disappointing; and they must either have been very much "off song," or they are standing in a false position in the Southern League table. As one critic observed, their left wing—Barnes and Gittins, who did duty for Luton last season—did not altogether "set the Thames on fire." But on such an exceedingly heavy and slippery turf anything like good play was out of the question.

Practically during the whole ninety minutes there was a heavy downpour, the result being that the stands were well patronised. As it was there were well on towards 4,000 spectators present when Luton kicked off against wind and rain.

Play was fairly fast and full of interest, and both sides were inclined to put plenty of work into the game. The locals tried A. E. Jones, an amateur, of Romford, at centre forward, while W. Porter again figured at outside left. R. Hawkes was back again in his usual position.

It was soon to be seen that the sides were pretty evenly matched, so far as the attack was concerned. The six halves were always in evidence, feeding their respective front lines. Jones, for Luton, was especially prominent, and "Bob" was rare at tackling.

The first half proved blank, but even the severest critics of the doings of the Town must admit that the locals had by no means their deserts. If we deduct the one bit of hard luck the Rangers had in front of Platt, it must be remembered that the Blues came more often nearer to scoring. What the Luton attack wanted was a little more persistence, while it must be added that both sides rather lost their heads at times. Luton's weak point was their defence. Several times were the visitors thus let in, and anything like a slice of luck must have seen the Rangers lower their opponents' colours. Walders seemed terribly afraid of Fidler, and his centres were not all that could be desired.

Upon resuming, the Blues had practically all the play for a time. Shaw, in goal, who appeared to be rather nervous at the start, brought off a few brilliant saves, but once when he was down in the mud Rankin missed the chance of a lifetime. One thing was helping the Londoners — their backs were fairly safe. After the Rangers had had a spell of play, both sides went at it with determination. Luton were all the time playing a winning game. But with a bit of good fortune the visiting backs extricated themselves nicely from one or two difficult positions, and when the whistle went at full time no goals had been scored.

In taking a point home with them the Rangers were lucky. Platt had not a great deal to do. As to the new man, he did very well, and generally kept McLean on tenter-hooks. Still the nature of the ground was such that it would not be fair to express an opinion of the new amateur's abilities. Porter's display was not all that could be desired, even for Luton; he did very well on the wing except in respect of centring, the most important point of all. Let us hope that the Blues will have better luck at New Brompton on Saturday.