

Football Notes and News.

[BY "GOALPOST."]

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON'S DEFEAT AT EXETER.

So far this season Luton Town have not succeeded in winning a match on foreign soil; so that when they visited Exeter on Saturday one felt that the Blues might possibly bag a brace of points. Exeter having only been admitted to the League this season, this was the first time for the two teams to meet. One recognised, too, that the Western team was not to be held too cheaply, particularly after their big victory over Plymouth Argyle during the week. But in the end, the Blues not only failed to win, but were not even successful in dividing the points.

There was a big crowd when Luton were set to kick off against the sun and also a stiff breeze. Exeter opened the attack through Bell and McGuigan, but the former shot wide. Next Gregory was forced to concede a corner, which was, however, not turned to advantage. Luton replied, but were easily held, and the Exeter forwards displayed capital form in a sustained attack. At the end of eight minutes Bell dashed through the Luton defence and beat Platt with a shot that found the corner of the net. A vigorous response was made by Luton, and Robinson accomplished a grand save by scooping the ball off Menzies' toes when a goal seemed certain.

Luton kept it up for a time, and Haycock looked like scoring, but was charged off when in the act of shooting. Then a splendid effort by Bell was luckily stopped by Platt. The Exeter inside forwards wasted a fine chance when a centre from White flashed across the goal with no one up to put the finishing touch on it. Following this Robinson was tested by Menzies and cleared smartly. Exeter continued to hold the upper hand, but Luton occasionally broke away in dangerous style. There was more method in the Exeter attack, however, and from a centre by White, Bell shot in hard and hit the post. The ball rebounded to McGuigan, who scored the second goal. Even play followed, and Exeter maintained their lead to the interval.

Resuming, Stansfield carried play into the home territory with a fine dodging run, Haycock ending a hot attack by shooting weakly into Robinson's hands. Then McGuigan, Bell, and White all tested Platt. Luton attacked, Robinson bringing off a great save by falling on the ball and holding safe with three forwards hacking at him desperately. With Luton still pressing, Craig robbed Menzies, saving a sure goal. Play then ruled more even. McGuigan broke through, White forcing Platt to concede a corner with a hard shot. From this the Luton left rushed down, and Menzies, meeting the centre, gave Robinson no chance with a shot from close range at the end of half an hour. A minute later, Robinson only just reached a lightning drive from Menzies. Exeter retaliated, McGuigan and Watson missing by inches only. Both sides tried desperately towards the end, but there was no further score.

Result: Exeter, 2 goals; Luton, 1 goal.

Taken altogether, Luton experienced a little hard luck, and Robinson, the Exeter custodian, has seldom had such good fortune as he had on Saturday afternoon in saving from Menzies on several occasions. At the same time misfortune dogged the footsteps of the Luton centre-forward. But once more the weak point on the side of the Blues was in respect of the defence. Had the back line been anything like sound, Exeter would not have been two goals up at half-time. Both Folley and Gregory were pitifully weak during the first 45 minutes, though in the second moiety the left back slightly improved. The forwards played with rare dash, and no fault could be found with the half-line, which included White in the centre.