

WESTERN LEAGUE.

CRYSTAL PALACE v. LUTON.

Played at the Palace on Monday. Result :—

Crystal Palace 8 goals.

Luton nil.

Luton will remember their visit to the Palace. Apart from the famous win over the Wolves in the English Cup re-play, the Crystal Palace team, says "Astral," in the "Morning Leader," had not until Monday registered a single victory since Christmas-day, when they gained Western League points by 3-1 at Leyton. The spell which seemed to have mesmerised the Palace sharpshooters was broken, however, in startling style, when Luton succumbed in the competition referred to by no less than eight goals to nil.

Only two points were registered before the interval, W. Lawrence starting the fun from a centre by Woodger, and Ryan subsequently deceiving Jarvis with a high dropping shot. Up to the interval, Luton had been playing a fairly even game with the opposition, and, in fact, Stansfield twice came near scoring with a couple of oblique shots. Bad luck befel the visitors early in the second half, however, when Jarvis, their goalkeeper, fell against the post in saving from Swann, and had to retire for repairs. During his absence, Johnson, the outside left, went in goal. It was almost a case of "Too much Johnson," but the vis-a-vis of the Palace man, after creditably saving one terrific shot from Woodger, and being beaten by a grounder from Bauchop, was relieved to see Jarvis return to action once more.

It was an opportune moment, too, for a penalty kick had been awarded the Palace through Woodger being tripped, although the latter was apparently of the opinion that the offence was outside the radius, for he placed the ball for a free kick nearer the touch-line. However, Collyer advanced from full back to exercise the extreme rigor of the law, and thenceforward Luton were run off their legs and played to a standstill. Bauchop, cleverly fed by his halves, kept running through in irresistible style, and three times in succession he found the net most sensationally. Twice Jarvis was beaten from range, and the third time came out, only for Bauchop to dribble round him and swing the ball into an unprotected net. Seven goals were on the book ten minutes from time, and, reminded by shouts of Burnley, the Palace men tried to make it nine. Woodger was desperately weak, however, with almost ideal openings, but he managed to get the eighth almost on the stroke of time.

There were really not eight goals difference between the two sides on the general run of the game. The Palace, in fact, showed less finish in the way of combination, but went in for more shooting, and one trusts the lesson of the game will not be lost on forwards who have recently shown a tendency to over-elaboration.