

Football Notes and News.

BY "THE GOALIE."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON'S HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.

TWO POINTS LOST AT HOME.

The professional footballer works hardest while others are making holiday, and Luton's players have had a heavy dose,—four matches in five days. As eight of the players have played in each game, it is little to be wondered at that on Tuesday they were not exactly "nippy." Three of the games were at home, the visitors being the Crystal Palace, Plymouth Argyle, and Exeter City. The first two succeeded in gaining a point, but Exeter were easily defeated on Tuesday. As Plymouth Argyle won their match on Good Friday, the Blues have gained half of the points at stake. Considering how the team has been weakened recently, this is not unsatisfactory.

PLYMOUTH SCORE.

The meetings of Luton and Plymouth are usually marked by a paucity of goals, but Good Friday's match proved an exception. The Plymouth team began the season in a very indifferent manner, but lately they have considerably improved, and must be ranked with the best teams in the Southern League. The improvement has been chiefly effected in the forward line, and Good Friday's game demonstrated this fact, as the "Dandies" won by four goals to nil. Luton have now played all the Western clubs—Exeter, Swindon, Bristol, and Plymouth—away from home, and it is a peculiar fact that on each occasion, their defence has been pierced four times. Luton have only failed to reply, however, on one occasion.

Owing to injuries, the home team had to make two changes in the forward line, C. V. Green and Griffiths playing for Boden and H. W. Raymond respectively. These two players, however, made excellent substitutes, and the absentees were not missed. About 14,000 spectators witnessed the game, which was of a fast and exciting character. As far as mid-field work went, there was little to choose between the two clubs, and the score rather flattered the home team. Three of the goals were scored in ten minutes during the first half, and, as at Bristol, this seemed to take the heart out of the visitors. Until that moment, it was anybody's game, but this plethora of goals, of course, put an end to Luton's aspirations.

Luton ought to have opened the score, but Sutcliffe, Plymouth's veteran goalkeeper, has lost little of his wonted skill and agility, and he saved two very dangerous shots from Lashbrooke and Brown, the latter being the best of the Luton forwards. Even then, Luton had further chances, but the Plymouth backs did not allow them to trouble Sutcliffe. At this point of the game, Bushell was playing grandly, and it was chiefly through his judicious passes that the visitors were able to attack so consistently. Halfway through the opening moiety, three good shots by the Plymouth forwards put an entirely different aspect on the game.

Green was responsible for the first two, the first after good work by Holden, and the second following some clever play by Dixon and Griffith. Naisby had little chance of saving either, especially the second, which was one of those oblique ground shots which are so difficult to reach, as they are really travelling away from the goalkeeper. The third goal was a lucky one, being the outcome of a chance shot by Holden. The ball travelled between the backs, and found Naisby quite unprepared. Having established a substantial lead, Plymouth somewhat slackened their efforts, but the game was still a fast one.

So hot was the pace in the first half, that it was little wonder that both teams gave a tame display in the second moiety. Luton did most of the attacking, and fully deserved to decrease the score against them. Their failure, it must be confessed, was due to rank bad shooting, and there is no doubt that had Moody been in the team, a different story would have been told. When the Plymouth forwards attacked there was a confidence in their play which spelt success, and on one or two occasions, the Luton defence had to be very smart to prevent further points being notched against them. They were outgeneralled once, however, after Naisby had saved from Dixon, Holden, and Breen, and Burch was able to score the fourth goal. Time came soon afterwards with the score:

PLYMOUTH 4, LUTON 0.