

Football Notes.

By "THE GOALIE."

LUTON'S RELAPSE.

TWO POINTS BUT POOR GAME.

SET-BACK FOR SWANSEA.

It was a good thing for Luton that they were playing only Ton Pentre on Saturday, for the visitors were hardly strong enough to take advantage of one of the poorest displays the team has given for a long time. As it happened, Luton won by 2-0, but they will have to improve if they wish to defeat Swansea to-morrow. Swansea, on Saturday, were at Croydon, and there were diverse opinions as to what would be the best result. Many wanted to see Croydon's colours lowered, but assuming that the Common are fairly safe for first place, it was perhaps as well that Swansea, who may prove Luton's most dangerous opponents for second place, should be beaten. Neither Brentford nor Stoke were engaged, but there were some wierd happenings in Wales. Mid-Rhondda, whom Luton have still to visit, piled on ten goals against poor old Treharris, while Aber-tillery, of all teams, demolished Caerphilly to the tune of 11-0. Barry overcame Pontypridd by 2-0, and Mardy defeated Aberdare by 3-0.

To turn to Luton's game, it is difficult to trim the sails of comment. All teams have off days at times, and perhaps Luton's inept display was only a temporary lapse. Partly, no doubt, it was due to the methods of the visitors, who, slightly superior to some of the teams against which big scores have been piled, played with a vigour and bustle that quite upset the home team's more scientific methods. Another factor that upset Luton must have been the weakness of the half-backs. Fred Hawkes was the only one to play up to his usual form, and he worked like a Trojan. Frith and Bob Hawkes, especially the former, were quite off colour, and thus the forwards suffered. As Wilman was again rested, although he was practically fit, Brewis partnered Durrant, but the wing was not a success, and most of the dangerous movements came from Rollinson and Hoar, with Simms excelling in flashes. Except for one or two mishicks, Elvey and Robinson performed fairly well, but were not so convincing as usual.

The visitors had two good backs in Tanner and Kirtley, whose main idea was to prevent the opposing forwards from shooting. This they did very effectively, and Percival in goal was also very safe. The half-back who was most in the picture was Chetwood, and Levi and Jones, at forward, took a lot of holding at times, although they rarely troubled Mitchell. The game was remarkable for the failure of most of the players to judge the flight and bounce of the ball. Some of the visiting team at first put this down to the ball itself, and the crowd kept on calling out, "Bring a new ball." The referee, Mr. Lilley, who is an old footballer himself, examined it and could find nothing wrong with it, much to the evident delight of Jimmie Bygrave, the groundsman, who at the interval informed the crowd that it was as good a ball as anyone could wish. The incident caused more interest than the game itself, and no wonder. Luton certainly deserved to win, and the Ton Pentre goal had some exceedingly narrow escapes, but there was very little to enthuse over.

Both goals were scored in the first half by Simms. The first movement was initiated by Bob Hawkes, whose pass enabled Hoar to send in a perfect centre from which Simms headed into the net. This happened after fifteen minutes' play, and it was not until almost the last kick of the half that the second goal was scored. On this occasion the centre-forward received the ball from Brewis, and in spite of the crowded goal-mouth he had the ball in the net before he could be tackled. Sandwiched between these two successes Rollinson had a goal disallowed for offside, and in the second half another successful attempt on his part was negatived through Simms infringing the rule. Durrant ought to have scored shortly before this, for he ran clear through only to shoot the ball against Kirtley, who ran up in the nick of time. Other good attempts were made by Bob Hawkes, whose cross shot was saved with the greatest difficulty, and Rollinson, who headed just over the bar. Result:—

LUTON 2, TON PENTRE 0.