

FOOTBALL.

F.A. CUP.

NARROW VICTORY OVER OXFORD.

THE NEXT ROUND.

Luton managed to win their match at Oxford City on Saturday, but it was a very close thing, and now in the sixth round of the qualifying competition of the F.A. Cup they have to visit either Bromley or Hampstead. This should result in their participation in the competition proper, but it is not likely to result in much financial profit. There was a possibility that this would have been the last round of the Cup this season, but it was decided at a meeting of the general council of the Football Association held at Russell-square, London, on Monday, that the Cup competitions for the present season should be played. The matter was introduced in a resolution by Mr. D. B. Woclfall, who moved: "That at the present time it is not desirable to proceed with the Cup competitions beyond the qualifying stages." Considerable discussion took place over this resolution, and ultimately it was defeated. The council, however, approved a recommendation of the finance committee that the Association should forego 5 per cent. from the matches and the competition proper, including the semi-final and final ties.

The defeat sustained by Oxford City, like that of Yarmouth, was their first of the season, but in justice to Oxford it must be stated that they lacked the services of Seymour and Draper, two of their best forwards, and the Rev. K. R. G. Hunt, the famous half-back. Luton showed better combination, and their passing was much more accurate than that of the Oxonians, whose defence was at times sorely taxed, and it was very largely due to the really brilliant display of Harley in goal that they did not suffer a much heavier defeat. At the onset it looked as if the City were in for a rough time, Luton attacking in vigorous fashion, but after awhile the home players asserted themselves, and play was of a more even character. Twenty minutes from the start, however, Luton attacked on the left wing, and Harley, after making a clearance, saw the ball go to the foot of Simms, who quietly dropped it over his head into the net. The remainder of the game went rather in favour of Luton, although on one occasion the City were very unlucky, Packer, with practically an open goal, failing to score. Subsequently there were some exciting moments at either end, but the defence proved stronger than the attack.

The match was watched by 2 300 spectators, half of whom were in khaki, and the receipts were £57, so after all expenses have been paid Luton will only get an insignificant sum. If the next match is played on the ground of either Bromley or Hampstead the takings will be probably less still, but there is the consolation that the travelling expenses will not be so great as if Luton had to travel a long distance. Saturday's match was played at Bromley, who had the better of the first half, and it was due solely to the fine display by the Hampstead goalkeeper that they failed to score more than the one goal which Callender registered half an hour from the start. With the wind in their favour Hampstead Town predominated after change of ends, but they were unable to score until just before the finish, when Humphreys equalised. The teams have agreed to replay at Golder's Green next Saturday.