

FOOTBALL NOTES

(By CRUSADER).

There need be said very little here about the match with Brentford on Saturday. The game without a goal is not often one to enthuse about, and last Saturday one might have slept for 90 minutes and enjoyed it more than the game. Neither side deserved the point they got, and the only redeeming features from Luton's point of view were the safety of the defence, the fine play of Fred Hawkes, and the better display given by Bookman in the first half.

For the game at Merthyr on Saturday, the Town directors have decided on a bold experiment. For personal reasons I am not going to applaud it, but with all my heart I hope they will be justified. Realising that the team certainly cannot do worse than has been the case recently, they have resolved to give a trial to a junior. His name is Leonard Bratby, and he comes from a team whose black and amber colours I wore when I was young and sound, and, in fact, occupies in his club the position I occupied on many occasions, but he has, I believe, scored more goals. A sturdy fellow, young and active, he comes from Belper, and has scored a large number of goals in the Derby and District League, from whence a large number of players have gone to first-class clubs this season. He is reputed to be a better centre-forward than Keetley, whom Bradford snapped up, and who has scored in each of the two games he has played for that club this last fortnight. If Len Bratby can do the same for Luton he will be in danger of hero worship.

There may be some doubt as to the wisdom of this course, but for my part I think it is quite justifiable, and it proves once for all that the directors have resolved on a bold policy. May the results be such as to encourage them. The Derby and District League is a pretty stiff proposition, and Belper are near the top, thanks to Bratby's goal-scoring proclivities. The football is usually vigorous and fast, and a man must know something of the game to be able to keep his place in the team. I do not imagine that Bratby will oust Simms when the latter is fit, but there will be room for both if he can score goals. The papers are all in order, for the Belper club have readily consented to Bratby's trial, and wish him every success.

Equally interesting are two further experiments. Tommy Urwin will play at inside right, for Percy Hill is not yet fit, and Arthur Roe will have a trial at centre half. How the latter will shape is problematical, but I fancy Urwin will be a dangerous customer in the forward line. It is possible also that another experiment will be made in the defence.

The most interesting fact in Luton football circles last week end was that Clarence won the championship of the Athenian League. In no half-hearted manner did they dispose of their nearest and most serious rivals—Hampstead Town—who were thrashed to the tune of six clear goals at Dunstable, the scorers being Ford (3), Riddle (2), and Chamberlain. It has been a strenuous struggle, and the Clarence have two games yet to play, but they are certain of the championship now, and the beautiful trophy will come to Luton. This is only the second season the Clarence have been in the Athenian League. In 1913-14 they were runners-up, and this season they have gone one better. I am sure all Luton is proud of its fine amateur club.

Several letters on various subjects will be dealt with in the "Saturday Telegraph."