

FOOTBALL CHAT

(By CRUSADER.)

Nothing but praise has been heard of the Town's splendid performance against Queen's Park Rangers, and the fluctuation of fortune and the grim struggle the Town made to win. They had the better of the game in the proportion of something like sixty to forty per cent., and a very happy improvement was that at half. That amendment probably accounted for the general toning up of the Town team. Simms' goal after 14 minutes' play was the culmination of a brilliant movement between himself and Hoar, and Higginbotham got an almost equally good goal, but it was disallowed for some reason or other. The loss of Watson as soon as the second half opened made faces fall, and there was justification for the fierce outcry against the Rangers' player chiefly responsible. With Parker in goal the Rangers got an equaliser, but Birch fisted the ball through, and it should not have counted. We should have been quite satisfied from this point if the Rangers had been kept out, but there was a better surprise in store, and that was one of the finest goals I have seen on the Town ground. Percy Hill adroitly backheeled the ball to Simms, who shot without hesitation, and the other Hill was beaten all the way. The Rangers tried hard to get an equaliser again, but were never able to give Parker anything serious, and the Town won handsomely.

Had Watson remained unhurt I am inclined to think that the revenge for the defeat on the previous week would have been on a more ample scale. Watson kept goal finely until hurt, and Lennon further enhanced his growing popularity by a brilliant display, while Tirrell was again a judicious and safe partner. It is a pity that Semple cannot get another turn with the first eleven, but Lennon and Tirrell are doing too well to be disturbed, and if the middle men can keep to the high standard of Saturday's game there will not be such a burden on the backs and goalkeeper as there has been. Parker was grand at centre-half, and the Rangers' inside men could not have been made more impotent than he made them. It was the wisest move, perhaps, that he should go into goal, but it was a great pity, and the Rangers' forwards appreciated their good fortune. Molyneux again gave a solid display, and Middlemiss could not shake him off, while Lamb's wonderfully improved game was greatly to the liking of the crowd. His headwork was particularly good, and he fell into line with Tirrell as though they had played together all the season.

Simms was the most masterful forward on the field, and his brace of brilliant goals capped a great game. His "bad season" has gone, apparently, and defences will have to keep wide awake when he is about. He is retaining his shooting confidence, and that is good for Luton. Sid Hoar did finely at outside right, and if only Simms will continue to serve up those wide, swinging passes, Hoar will do a lot of damage. Percy Hill did not play quite so well as in the previous home match, and did not shoot often enough, although he twice had hard luck. Higginbotham did well both at forward and at left half, whither he went when Parker went into goal. There is a disposition to see him tried at half-back, but his views on the matter may not coincide with the desires of those who would move him. Bookman played well in the first half when he had Higginbotham to look after him, but he was shorn of his effectiveness by the loss of his partner in the second portion.

The Rangers have a useful side. Hill is a safe goalkeeper, while the backs were very strong and sure. O'Brien was the best half, and the wingers the most dangerous forward.

LUTON TOWN	2 goals
QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS	1 goal

Luton.—Watson; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneux, Parker, Lamb; Hoar, Hill, Simms, Higginbotham, Bookman.

Rangers.—Hill; Blackman, Grimesdell; Grant, Mitchell, O'Brien; Faulkner, Birch, Smith, Gregory, Middlemiss.

Referee.—Mr. J. Winter, Crews.

Jas. Watson was removed to the Bute Hospital before the match had finished, and there on the operating table his shoulder was quickly restored. He will be out of harness for a week or two, but all will join in hoping that it is the last occasion on which he will have to go through the mill in this way.