

PLYMOUTH'S ESCAPE.

LUTON TOWN BETTER THAN THE LEAGUE LEADERS.

At Luton on Monday:—

LUTON TOWN	1
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	1

LUTON.—Purdy; Graham, Till; Richards, Neal, Millar; Moffat, Reid, Agnew, Dennis, Thompson.

PLYMOUTH.—Craig; Cosgrove, Russell; Logan, Pullen, Smith; Healy, Sloan, Batten, Leslie, Black.

Referee.—Mr. E. E. Small, Bristol.

It was not a matter of surprise, following the display of the Town on Boxing Day, that there should be 10,000 spectators at the match with Plymouth Argyle at Luton yesterday afternoon. The Town were only able to share the spoils, but on the run of the game they should have won, and had the players not been labouring under undue excitement, or the star of Craig been dimmed a little, there can be little doubt that the Town would have won handsomely. The ground was heavy, and there was an awkward breeze that now and then played tricks with the ball, but the play, while not of the best type of football, was fast and vigorous enough to satisfy the crowd.

Richards lost the toss, and defended the Ivy-road end. In the opening the visitors, as usual, were the quicker off the mark, and the Town defence had anxious moments. Black and Pullen each shooting over when well placed. Then came a fine effort by Dennis, and Thompson had a grand chance, but slipped in the mud, and the danger was cleared by Russell. A run by the Argyle right wing was dangerous, and Healy sent in a high shot, Purdy fielding safely and eluding Batten's rush.

POST BROKEN.

The latter crashed into the upright and broke it off near the base, the bar and the net also partly coming down. There was much laughter, but Batten was rather badly hurt, although he continued on the field. A spar was procured and the goal made safe. Graham held up Black in fine fashion when the game was restarted, and the Town pressed for a few minutes without troubling Craig. A free kick for a foul on Dennis was lifted over the bar by Till. Pullen resisted another attack in which the ball struck him with great force, but Logan completed the clearance. Several good opportunities were lost by the Town left wing through Agnew and Dennis playing too close together, and one very fine chance went west for that reason, as they got in each other's way. Thompson upset Russell and Cosgrove when they attempted to charge him off the ball, and his forceful tactics were of great value to the Town attack. Craig saved from Moffat and Dennis, and then got safely away a fine long shot by Richards. The pace was very fast, with the Town doing much more of the pressing. Thompson shot wide after

A GOOD EFFORT.

and when the ball came to the other end Till and Millar put paid to a strong effort by Healy. Richards was doing good work in attack, and the visitors' left wing could make little headway against Graham. A fierce attack was made by the Town following a grand run by Dennis. Thompson met a capital centre and shot hard, but the ball struck the bar and came out. Agnew was running in to take it when Pullen knocked it with his fore-arm, and the referee promptly awarded a penalty kick. DENNIS took the kick and scored amidst great applause, play having been in progress 25 minutes. The Town were now playing well, and in another onslaught Craig saved and Russell kicked off the goal-line a fine shot by Reid when the goalkeeper was beaten. The Argyle goal underwent something like a siege. Thompson twice missing narrowly, and Craig saved in clever style from Richards, while

a beautiful shot by Neal struck the bar and the ball went over. Thompson had to retire with an injury to his face following a rough bout with the Argyle backs, but he soon returned. Plymouth then made two or three attempts, the right wing making most of the running, but Purdy's work was not difficult, and the interval came with the score:—

LUTON TOWN 1 Goal
 PLYMOUTH ARGYLE Nil

Plymouth made a good resumption, and they were not beaten off for several minutes, although Purdy was seldom in real danger. The Town soon settled down to their work again, and the exchanges became very vigorous. Millar was only just wide after a splendid attempt, and Craig was kept busy saving shots from Richards and Dennis. He saved again from Richards at the expense of a corner. Reid then made a nice run, but shot wide. A sudden raid by the visitors ended with a capital save by Purdy from Black, but the ball was not got away very far, and the Town goal was under pressure for some minutes. Eventually Thompson got away and went right through, thanks to his immense shoulder power, but his final effort went wide. The Argyle replied and Sloan shot wide, Leslie heading too high a little later, while Purdy afterwards saved a header from the same player. A long shot by Logan hit the Town bar, but the situation was saved, and the Town returned to the attack again. Pullen pulled the ball down with his hands on the blind side of the referee, and so escaped another penalty, and a moment later there was

AN APPEAL

for a penalty against Logan, but that was not allowed. Agnew was putting in good work at this period, his tenacity counting a lot. Craig saved magnificently from Neal, but the Town persisted and forced a couple of corners, and only by desperate play did the visitors keep their goal intact. Twenty-seven minutes after the restart Pullen pushed the ball through to Sloan, who sent out to Healy. Millar overtook the latter and Graham ran across. Then the Town players hesitated as to which should take the ball, and HEALY slipped into the centre and beat Purdy to score the equaliser. The Town came back again and Pullen badly fouled Reid as the latter was going through. From the free kick the Argyle goal was again in danger, but Millar shot over. Craig then ran out and saved by throwing himself at the feet of Dennis as the latter broke clean through. It was a great save, and the Town player was slightly injured. The Argyle then had a turn, but it was of brief duration, and the Argyle concentrated on defence, Sloan once conceding a corner by a wild kick in an endeavour to stem the tide of attack. The flag kick was unavailing, and the Argyle came away again, and Sloan headed over. The Town made

ANOTHER BIG EFFORT

as time approached, and Agnew sent in a hard shot, but Craig was there. Immediately afterwards there was a fierce concerted assault on the Argyle goal, and it appeared as if the Town must score, for there was a crowd of players under the bar, and the ball only wanted the foot of a Town player to it to score, but somehow Craig got in the way and saved. The end came with the Argyle making an attack, and after the whistle had gone Batten hit the bar. It was a fitting ending to a fine game.