

LUTON'S LITTLE LAPSE.

Weak Shooting Gives Swindon a Point.

(By "CRUSADER.")

There cannot be satisfaction at both ends, and certainly what pleasure there was about the result of the match at Luton last Saturday went to Swindon. Result counts in the League table, but as a game between strong sides the spectator could not ask for much better. The "Railwaymen" were a trifle lucky to take away a point on the run of the game, but they will carry off points from many places if they play as brightly as on Saturday. Some time ago the old Swindon secretary, Mr. Sam Allen, walked into the offices on the Town ground and remarked to Mr. Charles Green, "Well, I think we have the better team, but I suppose you will beat us by about four goals." Had there been that margin in favour of the Town on Saturday it would pretty well have represented the scoring chances, for most of these fell to Luton, but were not accepted. That was the reason the Luton team had to be content with

A DIVISION

of the spoils. Apart from the first game away from home we have not yet seen that very fine team spirit so much in evidence at the end of last season, and until we do points will be dropped.

The forwards and the halves seemed to have little in sympathy, and often there was a gulf between them; at other times the machinery was lop-sided, and only now and then did we see those full-blooded attacks that carried havoc among opposing defenders last season. There will have to be a change if this is to be remedied. I do not mean in the construction of the team so much as in the spirit of the players; and neither do I mean that there is any "bad blood" in the camp. What I mean is that there must be a better understanding, quicker grasping of each other's intentions, and closer co-operation in driving home assault.

It is quite clear that there are players in the reserve team capable of stepping into the first team, but this is no time for chopping and changing, and there need be

NO BLUE FUNK

because a point has been dropped to a side like Swindon, a consistently successful club. A supporter tells me that he walked round the ground at the interval and heard all sorts of condemnation about the Town centre-forward's play, and he was amused to hear the change of tone when Jas. Thompson got the equalising goal. That is not surprising, and while admitting that Thompson was a long way below the quality we have come to expect or demand, I am quite sure that to meddle very much with the side after the third game only would be to ask for trouble.

There were many surprises on Saturday, and Luton will get a share of unpleasantness some time, however well the side may prosper.

Swindon were very hard-worked in defence. They acquitted themselves admirably, and the encouragement of a clever goal from Morris after half an hour gave them heart for

THE FIERCE STRUGGLE

that was to follow. Because of the opportunism of Morris they deserved their lead at the interval, for the Town had not shown like ability to round off their attacks.

In the second half the pressure told quite early on, and there was still sufficient time to win by a big margin had the inside forwards shown the necessary marksmanship. It was largely through the forceful work of Agnew and Clark that the equaliser came, a second flag-kick being placed so well by Clark that Thompson headed a goal very neatly. Afterwards, however, he missed many chances, and the attempts to complete attacks were scrappy, and the general work forward disjointed. So the game ended in a draw, but would not have done so had not the Town defence risen to the occasion. Every man in the rearguard played fine football; Mingay making brilliant saves; and Graham and Till kicking and tackling splendidly. The middle line was lacking, and Rennie seemed to be obsessed by

THE DANGEROUS MORRIS,

with the result that he did not play up to his customary standard. Then Richards was often persuaded in his own mind that the centre-half wanted help, with the result that the Swindon left wing got too much scope. Millar was the pick of the line because he chose to play his own game and he did it extremely well.

The forwards have been referred to above, and while doing a lot of smart things individually, they did not combine well. Pointon should have had more work; Norman Thomson and Agnew seemed to think that the only man to shoot goals was the centre-forward, and as he was not in shooting form the much-wanted goal did not arrive. Clark was probably the pick of the attack, and he put up a fine game.

Swindon were well served by their defence, and Nash played a great game, making marvellous saves. Brown was most conspicuous at half, and in the attack Morris was in a class by himself among the inside men, and Thom put up a good show on the wing.

There were about 11,500 spectators, and 11,216 paid at the turnstiles.

LUTON TOWN 1

SWINDON TOWN 1

LUTON TOWN.—Mingay; Graham, Till; Richards, Rennie, Millar; Pointon, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Clark.

SWINDON.—Nash; Dickenson, Weston; Brown, Bew, Archer; Eddleston, Wall, Morris, Petrie, Thom.

Referee.—A. Richards, Bristol.