

"HATTERS" AND "COBBLERS."

On Monday night at home Luton were accorded a great welcome when they received Northampton and won by two goals clear. As in the previous home game, they did far more attacking, and but for the valiant defence of Hammond and his backs, the margin would have been very much larger. It was a most unpleasant game from a spectatorial aspect, and in the second half the referee was constrained to call the teams together and caution them. It was a course he might well have taken before the game was twenty minutes old, for it was evident, even then, that a firm hand was necessary if the play were to be worthy of the reputations of the clubs. I would say in passing that but for this easiness with the players Mr. Greenland would be one of the best referees in the South. There were frequent flashes of brilliance between rough patches, but the infringements were too numerous, and the whistle was heard all too often. The Luton players were not blameless, because retaliation is an offence.

The first goal came from a penalty kick, when Norman Thomson was legged down by Yorke just inside the penalty area, and GRAHAM scored from the free-kick. Immediately the referee had placed the ball the Northampton players lined up to prevent Graham taking his run, and there was a good deal of jostling before Graham was afforded a free passage. His shot easily beat Hammond. This was the only score of the first half. There had been narrow escapes at each goal, and Hammond had shown remarkable aptitude and judgment in putting shots

OVER THE BAR.

He had a great deal more work than Mingay,

though the latter was severely tested on two or three occasions.

In the second half Hammond had again a considerable part in the game, but did his work splendidly, and was not beaten until a few minutes from the end, when Pointon centred for Norman THOMSON to rush the ball into the net after Hammond had dashed out. Many good opportunities were missed by the Town forwards, and they had a lot of flag-kicks that might have been turned to advantage, while free-kicks for tripping and pushing and foul charging fell to both sides.

Mingay has clearly proved his right to the place he occupies. He certainly indulges in risky ventures, but is agile, takes the ball neatly, and gets it away well. Graham and Till are playing magnificent football, and they are getting plenty to do, for each of the clubs Luton have met has a virile attack, and with the Luton halves still falling short of what is required, the defensive work is strenuous. However, there has been noticeable improvement in this line from both Richards and Rennie, though the latter finds a lot of difficulty in holding a hefty centre-forward. Millar is consistently clever.

Forward play is

LACKING SUPPORT,

and most of the attack comes less from good combination than from real determination. The wingers are not impressive, and appear to lack confidence. We may look for more goals when this is remedied. Both Pointon and Clark are speedy enough, and will come on. Norman Thomson is playing as cleverly as ever, and Jim Thompson is always prominent, even if his shooting is not yet of Bisley quality. Agnew did fine work at Exeter, but, owing to an injury, his place was filled by Woods on Monday. The latter is rather slow, but he put in some clever footwork and earned his place.