A BOOK ABOUT FOOTBALL

BY

HAYTE MAYFIELD

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F. A. Cup Final at Wembley, April 24th, 1926
Manchester City *v* Bolton Wanderers.
Bolton back and Manchester forward tussle for possession.

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CHAPTER I

THE ORIGIN OF FOOTBALL

It is sometimes asserted that, notwithstanding the British love for sport, most of our popular games of to-day were imported from abroad; but even if so much be granted, in most cases the modern game is no more like its original prototype than is chalk like cheese.

Football is said to have been an organized game in Florence and elsewhere in Italy in the sixteenth century, and possibly the game was brought to Eton in 1624 on the appointment of a new Provost, who had been our Ambassador to Italy.

Football of a kind, however, was practised in England more than a thousand years before Eton School was built. There is reason to believe that the legions of Rome engaged in a handball game that may have been a very primitive form of Rugger, and by the time the Romans withdrew from our island the Britons had imbibed some liking for the

game. There is a tradition connected with Derby dating back to the year 217 A.D., when the armed populace thrust out a cohort of Roman soldiers with considerable slaughter, and thereafter the people of Derby celebrated the victory by an annual football carnival, for which Shrove Tuesday was the appointed day.

There is a legend that a victory over the Danes was celebrated by a game on the Rodehee at Chester, in which the ball was the head of a fallen foe. It is naturally suggested that there must have been more carrying than kicking in that particular game, for no matter how hard-headed the old-time sea rovers might have been, a Danish headpiece could not have survived a kicking game longer than a few minutes, and there is no reason to believe that a stack of defunct Danish craniums was called into requisition.

Ignoring mere legends, we may come to the incontrovertible fact that Derby and Chester from very early times were famous for annual football matches, which it is highly probable arose out of the common practice of kicking a stone around a parish to define its boundaries, an observance that was often connected with the pancake festival. In the Harleian collection of MSS it is recorded that " Time out of mind it hath been the custom for the shoemakers yearly on Shrove Tuesday to deliver to the drapers, in the presence of the Mayor of Chester, at the cross on the Rodehee,

one ball of leather called a foote-ball of the value of three shillings and fourpence and above, to play at from thence to the Common Hall of the said city."

The substitution of a leather ball for a stone, if only out of consideration for the toes of the players, was a very natural step in the evolution of the game. It is equally understandable that football played by a mob in the streets of a city was marked by intolerable inconveniences, and no little damage to property, calculated to cause the sufferers to be out of love with one of the popular feast days of the Christian year. Consequently at Chester in 1540 it was ordained that the annual football match on the Rodehee should give place to a foot-race for six glayves of silver.

The Shrovetide game at Derby in the course of time crystallized into what was nothing less than a faction fight between the men of St. Peter's and All Saints', arising out of the fierce rivalries connected with the disputed boundaries of their respective parishes. Similar sport was a feature of Shrove Tuesday jollifications at a number of other towns in Derbyshire and elsewhere. The Derby match ceased in 1846, and in 1860 the people of Ashbourne were convicted in the Court of Queen's Bench for riotous assembly, which may be accepted as an indication of excesses not consonant with modern ideas of an athletic game, and still

less to be approved as a feature of a religious festival.

The game, however, had courted the displeasure of the powers that be at a much earlier period. Edward II, early in the fourteenth century, forbade football altogether because of " the evil that might arise through many people hustling together," and in the next reign there were legal enactments not only against football, but other " foolish games " that distracted the youth of the country from paying proper attention to soldiering, and especially did it interfere with their making themselves proficient in archery.

Nevertheless, football was still practised by the common people, each side unlimited in number and without restrictions concerning tripping, charging, hacking, and any possible means of defeating an opponent, so there was little wonder that Sir Thomas Elyot (1531) stigmatized the game as " nothing but beastlie furie and extreme violense, deserving only to be put in perpetual silence."

Stubbs, a quaint historian of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, wrote the " Anatomie of Abuses in the Realme of England," which was published in 1583. His condemnation of football was most emphatic :

" As concerning football playing, I proteste unto you that it may rather be called a friendlie kind of fight than a play or recreation, a bloody and murthering practice than a

fellowly sport or pastime. For dooth not everyone lye in waight for his adversarie, seeking to overthrow him and piche him on his nose, tho' it be on hard stones, on ditch or dale, or valley or hill, or whatever place soever it be he careth not, so he have him downe. . . . So that by this means sometimes their necks are broken, sometimes their backs or legs, sometimes their noses gush out with blood, and sometimes their eyes start out. And no wonder, for they dash him against the hart with their elbows, butt him under the short ribs with gripped fists, and a hundred such murthering devices."

Only six or seven years before this fulmination, at Middlesex Sessions a true bill was returned against nearly a score of persons who " with unknown malefactors to the number of a hundred, unlawfully played a certain unlawful game called football, by reason of which there arose amongst them a great affray, likely to result in homicides and fatal accidents."

In 1608 the jury at Manchester Court Leet prohibited football in the town under a penalty of twelve pence because of " ye glasse windowes broken yearele and spoyled by a companye of lewd and disordered persons using that unlawfull exercise of playinge with ye ffote-ball in ye streets, breakinge many windows and glasse at their pleasures, and other great enormities."

About the same time Carew, a chronicler

with an evident desire to be fair, thus describes his impressions of the game as played in Cornwall :

" I cannot well resolve whether I should the more commend the game for its manhood and exercise, or condemn it for the boisterousness and harm that it begetteth ; for as on the one side it makes their bodies strong, hard and nimble, and puts a courage into their hearts to meet an enemy in the face ; so also it is accompanied by many dangers, some of which do even fall to the players' share ; for the proof whereof, when the hurling is ended you shall see them retiring home as from a pitched battle with bloody pates, bones broken and out of joint, and such bruises as serve to shorten their days, yet all in good play, and never attorney or coroner troubled for the matter."

Carew was more observant than Stubbs, and far less splenetic. If he recognized the dangers of the game, he was not blind to the manly qualities it demanded, and particularly did he appreciate that no matter how rough, it was all in good play—and for that saving grace even this primitive football could be forgiven much. The times were rough compared with the present day, and as the manners of the people became more marked by gentleness and forbearance in the ordinary affairs of life, a similar improvement would be reflected in the sports and pastimes of the populace.

Scotland, too, was famous for its annual exhibitions of football, notably one at Scone, where the ball had to be placed a number of times in a dule, or goal, before victory could be claimed, and no excess of physical vigour was considered unfair in the attainment of that end. In some places even the women participated in football frays, arraying themselves in spinsters on one side and spouses on the other, just as the bachelors sometimes battled with the benedicts for football supremacy.

Several Kings of Scotland decreed against "fute-ball," which it was ordained should be "utterly cryed downe." In passing, it may be mentioned that golf was similarly included in the "unprofitable sports."

James I, of England, was already King of Scotland, and would be fully acquainted with the evils connected with Scottish football, which could not easily be worse than the English game, even if we grant Stubbs the privilege of a little exaggeration. In any case, James I denounced football in no measured terms, thus: "From this Court I debarre all rough and violent exercises, as the football, meeter for lameing than making able the users thereof."

It might be asked, how came the game to be still practised in face of royal disfavour, parliamentary enactments, and judicial penalties? Bear in mind that football in the streets to-day is an offence against the law,

but that does not prevent urchins from playing it, with one eye on the ball and the other on the corner of the back street where a policeman may put in an unwelcome appearance !

In the days of the Commonwealth the authorities viewed sports of almost any kind with repugnance. Even maypoles were uprooted, being stigmatized as " stynking idols " and relics of pagan times, and consequently there was no wonder that football was considered an " evil example," causing " great disquiet and disturbance to the good people of this Commonwealth." The apprentices of London had been in the habit of playing the game in boisterous fashion in the streets of the city, and they were probably mild exponents of the sport compared with the games occasionally indulged in by the Irishmen resident in the metropolis.

When Charles II was restored to the throne, not only was football in the streets viewed with a lenient eye for a time, but the royal servants played in a match against the retainers of the Duke of Albemarle, and Charles himself graced the struggle with his presence.

Jumping to more than one and a quarter centuries later, we find that Sheffield can claim to be one of the earliest homes of football in the country, according to the record of a match played in 1793 between Sheffield and Norton, which is now a suburb of the

city. The official representatives of each side were six young men of Sheffield dressed in red, and a similar number from Norton in green, but apparently others joined in without any regard to numbers to make an even struggle. Play was continued for three days at the arch which was erected at each end of the ground. The Norton side, finding itself swamped by the number of Sheffielders who threw themselves into the fray, sent messengers into the borders of Derbyshire for fresh recruits, whereupon a drum and fife band went through the streets of Sheffield to gather reinforcements.

In those days it was the custom for all respectable gentlemen, tradesmen, and artisans to wear long tails. At the close of the third day's play there was something like a free fight between the contesting parties, with the result that most of the Sheffield men lost their appendages.

"There were many slightly wounded, but none killed. Thus ended a celebrated football match which aroused bad passions among both parties, and the hostile feeling continued so that for several years afterwards the people of Norton felt a dread to come to Sheffield, even about their necessary business."

Football was never really in vogue except with the common people, and even then not as an everyday game, but chiefly for special holiday occasions. Frowned on by the State and bearing a not unmerited noxious reputa-

tion, there was little likelihood of the game becoming a real national pastime until it had outgrown the excesses of its youth, which it long showed little disposition to do.

The fact that Sir Walter Scott was a lover of football intimates that at the beginning of the nineteenth century the game could no longer be considered an affray, for he certainly would not have advocated a reprehensible sport, and still less would he have commended it to the youth of the country. Thus did the poet sing his lay :

" Then strip, lads, and to it, though sharp be the weather,
And if, by mischance, you should happen to fall,
There are worse things in life than a tumble on heather,
And life is itself but a game at football."

It is well for us to recognize that, after all said and done, life is but a scrimmage, in which it behoves us to take the rough with the smooth ; and the healthier and straighter we play the game of life, the surer will be its rewards and the fewer its disappointments.

The match that fired Sir Walter's muse, as it did also that of the Ettrick Shepherd, was a contest between the men of the Dale of Yarrow and those of the parish of Selkirk on Carterhaugh on December 5, 1815. Sir Walter attended the match in his capacity as Sheriff of Ettrick Forest, and his own son,

Master Walter Scott, of Abbotsford, who was only thirteen years old, rode round the field waving the Buccleuch banner, preliminary to the Duke of Buccleuch himself throwing up the ball for the match to begin.

Outstanding in any of the scrums could always be seen two particularly stalwart Selkirk men. One of the couple contrived to throw the ball to his comrade who was on the edge of a heaving mass of humanity, and forthwith he set off as hard as he could go for the woods of Bow Hill, from whence by a long circuit he could reach the Yarrow goal, and cover himself with glory by bringing victory to his side. He was, however, run down by a horseman and deprived of the ball. There were few limits to what was permissible on these occasions, but the interference of a mounted spectator broke all the unwritten rules, and the offender had some difficulty in escaping from a mauling. Lord Home declared that if a gun had been at hand he would have shot the mounted marauder without compunction. The notable struggle ended in a draw, largely because of volunteers throwing themselves on to either side without any regard to even numbers.

In later pages will be recorded a great football match in the twentieth century, where horsemen played a prominent part, not to hamper any one in the game, but to ensure that the players were permitted to go about their lawful football without interference.

Reference to the great match on Carterhaugh invested with ducal pomp reminds one of the change that had overcome football beyond the Border. In 1600 Sir John Carmichael, Warden of the Middle Marshes, was killed by a band of the Armstrongs as they returned from a football match. Whether the deed marked their exuberance in victory or chagrin in defeat we are not told. Upon another occasion a great meeting of Scottish riders to play football at Kelso degenerated into an invasion of England.

It will have been gathered that in football as played for centuries the object of the players was to force the ball to a goal that might be a hole in the ground, or even in the trunk of a tree, a church door, or any landmark that took the popular fancy. The ball was kicked or carried, mainly the latter. There were usually no boundaries to the field of play, no limits to the number of players, little or no balancing of the sides ; and with no penalties for violent play, victory was the perquisite of those who would shirk no roughness, or even downright brutality, to attain it.

The ball itself was of a very primitive character in the early days, and when a pig's bladder covered with leather was evolved, it was a notable stage in progress. Its shape alone lent itself more to carrying than kicking. An absolutely spherical ball with a rubber bladder was quite a modern innovation ;

india-rubber was not sold in London earlier than 1771, and very many years elapsed before the product was employed in making a football.

Of the many different objects that were used as footballs, one of the strangest was that employed at Hallaton, in Leicestershire, on Easter Monday, when was performed the old custom of scrambling for meat pies, after which the men of Hallaton contended with their neighbours of Medbourne in a kind of football match in which the ball was a wooden field-bottle. Propelled by a hefty kick, the cumbersome hard "ball" itself became a dangerous missile, to say nothing of the usual personal recklessness that marked the struggle to kick the bottle over a village boundary. Hard knocks were inseparable from the game, but good humour was always a capital salve.

There are several towns in England where Shrovetide football is still practised on rather primeval lines, where boisterous play is still the order of the day, but stripped of the old-time brutalities that have been swept into oblivion with cock-fighting, bear-baiting, and other undesirable sports that found favour with our forefathers.

Workington, in Cumberland, is famous for a match of this kind. The whole day is devoted to a game in which football, cross-country running, and wrestling are jumbled together—a game in which, as in olden times, might is right and the weakest go to the wall.

From all parts of the county, and even farther afield, excursion trains to Workington bear thousands of visitors to witness the Shrovetide struggle for football supremacy between the sailors and the colliers of the town. From their occupations it may be imagined that the contestants are as hard as nails, and they enter the fray with as much gusto as the knights of old time entered the lists of the tournament. The colliers are called the "Uppies," the sailors are known as the "Downies." The aim of the pitmen is to carry the ball over the gates of Curwen's Hall at the high end of the town; the mariners' breezy efforts are concentrated in a wild desire to "hale" the ball at the capstan on the harbour.

Although officially this great match is between the colliers and sailors, there are many youthful participants who come under neither category. In olden times the juveniles went "Lent cracking" on Shrove Tuesday, singing a pancake rhyme for pence, after the fashion of carol singing that is still extant; but the modern boy joins in the football carnival instead, and contrives to come through the fray deliriously happy, albeit more than a trifle the worse for wear.

The "Cloffocks" is a level piece of ground covered with thick slime deposited by the high tide, and just the spot that one would think footballers would avoid; but it must be remembered that this is no ordinary game,

but one in which no opportunity is missed that will provide rough-and-tumble fun. The "Cloffocks" is the spot selected for the kick-off, and the game is but a few seconds old when some four or five hundred men and youths, some stripped to the waist, are floundering and spluttering in the mire. Every moment a player ingloriously measures his length in the mud, and the spectators cheer themselves hoarse with delight. The players do not care a jot, for a mud bath is a feature of the game which very few contrive to escape.

Presently the ball is worked into the streets of the town, which are speedily packed with players. The ball is seldom visible for any great length of time—it is usually the focus of a struggling mass of humanity. The fun waxes fast and furious, fences are scaled, and even walls are pushed down by the weight of numbers in the rear.

When the ball finds its way into the backyards of some of the houses, there is greater excitement, for the players follow it helter-skelter, encouraged by the shouts of householders viewing the struggle from bedroom windows. After the leather sphere has taken its departure, the unoffending householder might easily believe his back premises have been laid waste by a tornado. The water-butt is a heap of dismantled staves and hoops, and any domestic utensils that happened to be there have been kicked and

trampled out of all recognition. The real Workingtonian, however, will account the damage as all in the day's fun, and in any case he can console himself with the thought that many of his neighbours are in no better plight.

At length the contest is over : the ball has at last found a resting place within Curwen's gates, or the sailors have forced it down to the harbour side. The victors sing pæans of triumph, in which even the defeated join with the utmost enthusiasm. The chemists of the town are busy that night, for sticking plaster and arnica are in great demand with which to soothe the painful souvenirs of the energetic struggle.

CHAPTER II

PIONEERS OF THE MODERN GAME

WHEN football was taken up by various public schools, such as Eton, Rugby, Harrow, Westminster, Winchester, Charterhouse, and Shrewsbury, there was hope that under their auspices the game would sooner or later lose some of those objectionable characteristics that had given it such an unenviable reputation. In the end the hope was realized, but it took nearly three centuries to bring about the desirable changes.

Football was played by the Harrow boys very soon after the foundation of the school in 1571 ; nearly two and a half centuries ago it was practised at Westminster, where it was restricted to the cloisters ; Eton and Rugby played the game quite as early, and before the middle of the nineteenth century they engaged in organized matches, which was a marked step forward.

The animadversions of the governing powers against football had no reference to the game

as played at schools, since what took place in the privacy of school grounds could not be construed into the rout and riot that were offensive to the general public. The masters would make it their duty to curb brutal play, and the boys, even if left to themselves, would evolve rules of some kind that might be unwritten, yet would be observed as a matter of honour.

Each school made its own rules to suit its particular circumstances. Playing only in cloisters, Westminster of necessity had to debar carrying the ball and collaring because of the danger of a player being thrown against a pillar, or crashed on an adamantine pavement. At Charterhouse, too, carrying the ball was forbidden, but catching the ball under certain conditions secured the privilege of a free kick. At Winchester, whose ground was only eighty yards long by twenty-five yards wide, six-a-side was as many as could play with comfort; and there dribbling was not encouraged, but accurate kicking was most essential to success. At Eton players were not permitted to use their hands in any way. Generally speaking, handling was discountenanced and dribbling encouraged at Eton, Harrow, Westminster, and Charterhouse. Even in those early days attention was given to offside, if only to see that no player secured an advantage for his side without honestly working for it. At Eton if a player was behind his opponents he was guilty of

"sneaking," than which there is no worse offence in schoolboy eyes. On Winchester's small ground two players on the same side could not touch the ball in succession unless it rolled behind the first kicker. At Charterhouse a player was given offside unless he had four opponents between him and the goal; while at Harrow no forward was allowed to be in front of the ball.

At Rugby, on a field 130 yards long by 80 yards wide, a horde of boys could engage in the Big Side game that greatly resembled the football sport of the holiday mobs, or the city apprentices playing in the streets; and collaring, hacking, and tripping were the order of the day long after the censorious Stubbs had gone to his rest. Rugby School preserved more of the old-time features of football, and in consequence gave its name to the carrying code that is now played under the Rugby Union.

Football at the great schools mentioned by name was copied by many minor schools, and when the scholars proceeded to the universities they still followed the game that had gained their young affections; or when they left school to follow professional or business pursuits, they did not desire to relinquish the game, and consequently old boys' clubs sprang up in a number of places, particularly in the vicinity of London and Cambridge.

The year 1846 saw a definite attempt made to deduce something like order out of what

was nothing less than football chaos. At Cambridge University it was found difficult to play the game smoothly with old boys accustomed to different rules, which led to an effort being made to codify some regulations that would be acceptable to the various colleges, and shortly some rules were drawn up that worked satisfactorily for a time. In particular they did something towards eliminating brutality and emphasizing the advisability of substituting science for the haphazard and rough-and-tumble features that hitherto had been unduly prominent even in the best of matches.

The Forest Football Club, at Leytonstone, established in 1859, may be regarded as the pioneer club of the south outside the schools and several hospitals in the vicinity of London, about which time the Blackheath Rugby Club was founded, soon followed by clubs at Crystal Palace and Barnes. In the provinces there was only the Sheffield Club, which was established in 1855. It was viewed with derision in some quarters, but not only did the club succeed, the game spread to Nottingham, Lincoln, Derby, and other towns.

Even with the uprise of a number of clubs, it was still practically impossible to arrange inter-club matches because of the diversity of rules, and the reluctance of players to make any change in the tactics to which they were accustomed in boyhood, and which they tenaciously considered the best. It was,

however, perfectly obvious that there should be some common understanding about carrying the ball, hacking, tripping, and charging.

A committee met at Cambridge in 1863 in the hope of formulating rules agreeable to all clubs, and fourteen rules were issued in October. It was laid down that the goal-posts should be fifteen feet from each other, but without tape or cross-bar; the ball should not be held or hit by the hands, arms, or shoulders; holding, pushing, tripping, and hacking were illegal, but charging was allowable. It was also enacted that when a player kicked the ball, any of his own side who were nearer the opponents' goal-line were offside and out of play, which meant the adoption of the Harrow rule.

This was distinctly useful legislation that would carry the game a long way forward from the physical frays that had been synonymous for football, but there was no authoritative body with power to enforce the rules.

The necessary legislative body, however, came into existence on October 26, 1863, when the representatives of a dozen London clubs met to form the Football Association. Various laws were discussed with the object of collecting the best points in all the different styles of play that were in vogue. One rule submitted by the Hon. Secretary (Mr. E. C. Morley) permitted a player, if he had made a

fair catch, to run with the ball in his hand, and so long as he held it he could be hacked or tripped. This was in direct opposition to the new Cambridge rule ; but at another meeting a month later Mr. Morley recanted, and in the end the Cambridge rules were adopted subject to slight modifications. In the case of a player making a fair catch, he was entitled to a free kick if he immediately screwed his heel into the ground in intimation that he claimed it.

It was inevitable that the devotees of Rugby would bitterly oppose the new legislation. They might have given way on the subject of carrying, but concerning hacking they were quite irreconcilable, and would not hear of its abolition. A few weeks later the Blackheath Club seceded from the Association, but it was not until eight years later (1871) that the Rugby Union was founded, thus giving us two football codes as they exist to-day. It was rather a score for the pioneers of the Association game that the Rugby Union itself should veto the brutal practice of hacking.

Although the Football Association, with its code of rules, was safely launched, it had a perilous infancy, for at the end of three years only nine London clubs and Sheffield were affiliated ; other clubs pleased themselves whether they played the Association rules or not ; but what was still more regrettable was the abstention of the schools, which meant

that the rising generation was not interested in the Football Association, and did not consider themselves subject to its legislation.

At the annual general meeting of the Football Association in February, 1866, the enthusiasts who had worked so hard in the interests of the game were heartened by a letter from the Sheffield Club challenging an eleven representing the London Clubs. The match took place in Battersea Park a month later. London scored 2 goals and 4 touch-downs to which Sheffield could not reply with a single point. Although this was the first match of a really representative character, the press of the day for the most part ignored even bare mention of it. *Bell's Life* gave a short report, in which it was stated that " the game became very hot, and some of the London players were severely kicked," and otherwise knocked about.

In the same year the rules underwent considerable change. The free kick for a fair catch and a try at goal from a touch-down were abolished, thus dropping the last remaining link with the Rugby game. The height of the goal was now fixed at eight feet, marked by a tape or cross-bar. The closer definition of the goal had become urgently necessary, for although in a shot at goal the ball might soar to a height of nearly a hundred feet, the point was still claimable, and instances were quoted where the spectators had settled that the ball would have passed

between the posts if they had been reared to the requisite height.

The offside rule was also markedly modified, and as it remained in force until the end of the season 1924–25, and as offside was always the most debatable point in the game, it will not be amiss to quote the regulation :

" When a player kicks the ball, or throws it in from touch, any one of the same side who, at such moment of kicking or throwing, is nearer to the opponents' goal-line is out of play and may not touch the ball himself, nor in any way whatever prevent any other player from doing so until the ball has been played, unless there are, at such a moment of kicking or throwing, at least three of his opponents nearer their own goal-line, but no player is out of play in the case of a corner kick, or when the ball is kicked from the goal-line, or when it has been last played by an opponent."

The clubs that were then in existence in Sheffield and its neighbourhood had formed a local association that had several rules differing from those of the parent body. Their goal was smaller ; they still retained a kind of " try " ; and a player was not offside so long as he had one opponent in front of him. In 1868 the Sheffielders adopted the regulation goal, and a corner kick replaced the try, but the Sheffield offside rule persisted until 1877.

A determined effort was made in 1867 to

increase the number of clubs affiliated with the Football Association. Every club in the country was circularized, claiming that the Association code embodied everything that was for the good of the game, the rules being " free from unnecessary danger, yet retaining all that is scientific and interesting in all the diversified games that have been in vogue." The results were extremely gratifying. A noted adherent was gained in the Rev. Edward Thring, an old Cantab, Master of Uppingham School, where he made himself famous as a broad-minded and singularly forceful educationist. Among a number of clubs that enlisted under the banner of the Football Association were Westminster and Charterhouse, thus bringing in the public school element that had been so very desirable from the outset. On January 1st, 1868, the Football Association could boast of a membership of thirty clubs, most of whom were in London or the near vicinity. There was now no doubt about the future of Association football, for clubs were springing up in all directions. In the closing months of 1866 only six score matches were recorded in the newspapers, but in the same period a year later the number exceeded three hundred.

The London and Sheffield match was fruitful of result if it did no more than lead to another representative contest, viz., Middlesex *v.* Surrey and Kent, which ended in a goalless draw. Middlesex was captained

by C. W. Alcock, who played in goal ; he was the then Hon. Secretary of the Football Association, which office he held until 1890 ; he was again the Secretary, 1891–96 ; and upon resigning that post was elected a Vice-President, which office he held until his death in 1907, by which time the Football Association had grown into a powerful organization in control of the popular winter sport that had assumed immense proportions never dreamt of when the Association had its rather humble beginning. Mr. Alcock was equally well-known in the cricket world, being Secretary of the Surrey Cricket Club from 1872.

Surrey and Kent next antagonized each other, which also resulted in a draw without either side scoring. Kent was captained by the Hon. A. F. Kinnaird, who became President of the Football Association in 1890, which office he retained until his death in 1924. Lord Kinnaird, K.T., was a great philanthropist, and particularly was he known throughout the world as President of the Y.M.C.A.

In 1870 the Football Association secured an adherent club from over the Border, namely Queen's Park. This club, like many others, was begun in a most modest and inconspicuous manner by a handful of young men who wrote to a London newspaper seeking information concerning rules. The letter happened to fall into the hands of Mr. James

THE ANCIENT GAME OF SHROVE TUESDAY FOOTBALL, IN WHICH ALL AND SUNDRY FROM DIFFERENT PARISHES JOIN.

Lillywhite, who had issued a football annual on the same lines as his famous cricket publications. The result was that Queen's Park joined the Association, about which time more than a dozen Sheffield clubs followed suit, although they stipulated that they be allowed to play under their own rules.

There was then no doubt that the Football Association would perform the work that its sponsors had in mind at its inception, namely that it should govern and legislate for a game that was now extending by leaps and bounds, although no eyes of football faith could then perceive how the game would capture the popular imagination and eventually grow into almost unbelievable proportions.

CHAPTER III

INTERNATIONAL GAMES

THE enthusiasts who conceived the idea of a Challenge Cup tournament in order to encourage interest in Association football builded better than they knew, for it gave the game more than the fillip that was desired; it undoubtedly led to football becoming the national winter pastime. There were not wanting those who conscientiously opposed the offering of a trophy, maintaining that the mere winning of the championship was sufficient honour in itself without any tangible bauble to mark the achievement. Custom, however, was on the side of the trophy; it was vain to decry a method as old as the Olympian games, where the victor was awarded a crown of olives for his athletic prowess; one might as well attempt to deprive the schoolboy athlete of his coveted medal or little "pot," or deny the Oxford or Cambridge man the oar with which he had striven in a classic struggle.

In any case, in October, 1871, it was decided to establish a Challenge Cup, for which all clubs in the Association should be invited to compete. As the annual subscription to the Association was then only five shillings, there were no funds available for a Cup of even such modest value as £25, and the amount was subscribed by the clubs themselves. Queen's Park contributed a guinea, which was then one-sixth of the club's annual income.

Fifteen clubs entered for the competition : Barnes, Civil Service, Crystal Palace, Clapham Rovers, Donington School, Hampstead Heathens, Harrow Chequers, Hitchen, Maidenhead, Marlow, Queen's Park (Glasgow) Reigate Priory, Royal Engineers, Upton Park, Wanderers. As Queen's Park and Donington School (Spalding) were the only clubs remote from the metropolis, they were awarded byes until the semi-final stage, when Queen's Park were drawn against the Wanderers, which was the old Forest Club of Leytonstone under a new name.

The match was played at Kennington Oval before a crowd of infinitesimal proportions compared to the tens of thousands of spectators such a match would draw to-day. The Scotsmen's travelling expenses had been defrayed by public subscription in Glasgow, whereas nowadays teams of elementary schoolboy footballers make such a journey.

Although half of the twenty-two players

afterwards attained international honours, only one need be specifically mentioned, namely C. W. Alcock in goal for the Wanderers, who was not only a football legislator to whom the game owed a great deal, but was also a clever exponent of the game in actual practice.

The match, which was stubbornly contested, ended in a draw, and as the Scots thereupon withdrew from the competition for that season, the Wanderers qualified for the final, in which they defeated the Royal Engineers and made themselves the first winners of the English Cup.

When Queen's Park decided to join the Association it was hoped that it would lead to rivalry between England and Scotland, and Mr. Alcock arranged matches under that title, the first of which was played in November, 1870. The Scots team consisted of Caledonians resident in London, one of them being Mr. Robert Smith, who was the first treasurer of Queen's Park, which could not have been a very onerous position. The result of the match was a victory for England by 1 goal to 0, and a second contest a few months later ended in a draw.

The Wanderers, doubtless instigated by the forceful Mr. Alcock, then threw out a challenge to any club in the Kingdom, which drew a reply from Queen's Park, offering to meet them on a neutral ground somewhere in the north of England for a trophy worth

eleven guineas, or eleven tokens valued at a guinea each. They stipulated that the Wanderers' side must be restricted to Englishmen, which would have meant the exclusion of two Scots, one of whom was the Hon. A. F. Kinnaird. The match, however, did not take place, and the Wanderers and Queen's Park did not meet until they opposed each other in the semi-final, as already mentioned.

The rather spurious international matches were satisfactory so far as they went, but what was wanted was for the pick of Scotland to antagonize England, but as there was no Scottish association in existence there were difficulties in the way hard to overcome.

Queen's Park, therefore, stepped into the breach and offered to represent the Scots who played the Association game. This greatly roused the ire of the devotees of Rugby on the other side of the Border, who had engaged in a great international match at Edinburgh in November, 1872, when victory fell to the Scots by a goal and a try to a try. The Scottish Rugger players were particularly angry at their Soccer rivals having the audacity to offer themselves as representatives of Scotland, where the players of Rugby were decidedly in the majority. Queen's Park took no notice of the outburst, but went on with their arrangements; eventually they met the Englishmen on the ground of the West of Scotland Cricket Club at Partick;

and a well-fought game resulted in a draw, neither side scoring.

This match created widespread interest ; numerous new clubs sprang into existence, and, what was more, the Scottish Association was formed.

A return match was played at Kennington Oval in the following spring. The Scots commandeered the services of the Hon. A. F. Kinnaird (Wanderers) and Colonel Rennie-Tailyour (Royal Engineers), but even then they were not equal to the English side that won by 4 goals to 2.

The international matches, which henceforth were to be an annual fixture played alternatively in England and Scotland, gave the Association game an immense impetus over the Border, where for some years it made far more rapid progress than in England.

In 1876 Scotland played its first international game at Glasgow with Wales, who lost by 4 goals to 0, before a crowd of 20,000 spectators, such a gathering as had never been seen in England. The first England and Wales international match did not take place until 1879 ; and the English Association was the first to give Ireland a match at Belfast in February, 1882. Although it was claimed that football had been played in the Emerald Island for at least 2,000 years, her then representatives were beaten by England by 13 goals to 0, the biggest thrashing in international annals.

Scotland met Ireland for the first time in 1886, when the Scots won handsomely enough by 5 goals to 0.

The institution of international matches gave the Association game a greater standing in the eyes of the discriminating lovers of sport. Football players were no longer viewed as harmless lunatics, but as participators in a manly game with untold possibilities for good, if there be any truth in the Shakespearean dictum that " There's no such sport as sport by sport o'erthrown."

International football is now under the control of an International Board composed of eight members, of whom two represent the English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish Associations respectively. The qualification for play is birth, or in the case of British subjects born abroad, the nationality of their fathers. Each country plays with each other annually, and the results settle the annual championship for the year. It is no reflection on the other matches to say that the premier international match of the year is always the one in which the antagonists are England and Scotland, although as a matter of fact neither of them may win the international championship. In 1923–24 Wales beat England, Scotland and Ireland ; but she has much leeway to make up, for in forty-one matches against England she had then won only four ; of forty-four played against Scotland she had won six ; but of thirty-eight matches with

Ireland she had won eighteen, lost thirteen, and drawn seven.

The first international proper between England and Scotland took place in 1872 at Glasgow, and ended in a draw of no goals. Of the first eight matches Scotland won four, England two, and two were drawn. In the succeeding ten years the superiority of Scotland was more marked, for she had seven victories to England's one, and two games were drawn.

In the next six years England won four games, and two were drawn. Scotland's failure to register a win in that period was no real reflection on Scottish football. The legalization of professionalism in England had led to more and more Scots transferring their services to clubs over the Border. Some of the Scottish clubs were so denuded of their best players that the Scottish Association ostracised all her recreant sons who had left their country for southern siller. It was ordained that no Scottish professional in England could return to his old club without the permission of the Association, and all such were ineligible to represent Caledonia in any international match. Thus the teams selected to represent Scotland for some years were confined to those players who had remained loyal to the land of their birth, and consequently the Scottish international sides were weaker than formerly.

The Scottish Association did not raise this

embargo until professionalism had made such strides in Scotland itself that the only sensible course was to recognize the new order of things and make the best of it. Consequently in 1896 Scotland included in its international team Scots who were attached to English clubs, with the result that Scotland won by 2 goals to 1. Thereafter the matches between the two countries were of a more even character, Scotland winning eight to England's seven, while nine games were drawn.

At the end of the season 1924–25 the results of the forty-nine matches played were: Scotland won twenty, England won fourteen, and fifteen were drawn.

Originally the English international side was composed wholly of amateurs, but with the growth of professionalism the amateur element declined sometimes to one player. Such was the case in 1910, when Vivian Woodward was the sole amateur. Great player as he was, he did not captain the English side on that occasion, that honour falling to Robert Crompton (Blackburn Rovers), one of the greatest professional backs and captains England ever could boast. He played in no less than thirty-four international matches, twelve of them against Scotland.

There were no international matches during the War, and the game that signalized their resumption in 1920–21, which was known as the Victory International, was one of rather unusual character. It was played at Sheffield

on a particularly wet day, and at the conclusion of the game some of the players were so beplastered with mud as to be unrecognizable. At half-time Scotland led by 4 goals to 1, and English hopes were down to zero ; but after the interval the grand play of the English halves (Ducat, McCall, and Grimsdell), and the dazzling efforts of Kelly (Burnley) at outside-right, backed up by the rest of the team, resulted in England putting on five goals and winning the match.

There is generally much speculation concerning who will represent England against Scotland. In some quarters there is a desire to see the amateurs well represented. In the early days of professionalism there were amateurs of outstanding excellence in every position on the field. This was largely due to the fact that the Corinthians—a great amateur combination composed largely of Varsity players — had opportunities of meeting important professional teams at least several times in a season, which enabled them to become accustomed to the arts and trickery employed by the professional, with considerable advantage to their own play. Nowadays such chances do not exist, owing to lack of open dates and the necessity of great professional clubs playing matches that will attract large gates.

In some cases, however, clever amateurs have played fairly regularly for professional sides. E. Gordon Wright (Cambridge

University) was the captain of Hull City; K. G. R. Hunt (Corinthians) was second to none as a Wolverhampton Wanderer half-back; A. S. Knight (Corinthians) who captained Portsmouth Town, was a full international as well as captain of the English side in the Amateur Victory International; Max Woosnam was a power in the Manchester United team, as was Stanley Earle with West Ham United. The last-named was frequently compared to Buchan, which was no mean testimonial, but Earle himself admitted that for a time he found the pace too hot in professional football, and it took him some time to find his feet. Earle was an undoubted football genius, and if he found it difficult to adapt himself to the professional style, it explains why some really good amateurs have failed to realize expectations when playing with professionals without the advantage of preliminary acquaintance with their methods.

A more recent example of an amateur assisting a professional club was A. G. Bower (Corinthians). He was a natural footballer and a back of specially great promise. He played in international games against Wales (1921) and Ireland (1923). The latter match was played at Belfast. Ireland was just getting over her troubles, but outside the ground there were many mounted police and armoured cars. Bower had to meet Gillespie (Sheffield United), whom the amateur frankly confessed was too much for him—in fact, he

seldom got near him, let alone the ball. Bower joined Chelsea in 1925–26 and captained the team in several matches with considerable success. However, as his services were not always available, Chelsea had to forgo his assistance, otherwise there would be frequent chopping and changing that is never desirable.

In October, 1925, the English international team to meet Ireland contained three amateurs, more than had appeared for many seasons. One of them was Benjamin Howard Baker (Corinthians). He stands more than 6 ft. 2 ins., is nearly fourteen stone in weight, and is the holder of the British record for the high jump—6 ft. 5 ins. He became goalkeeper for the English amateur side, and then went to Chelsea to enlarge his experience, which resulted in his becoming a first-rate custodian. In the Irish match, which ended in a draw of no goals, he effected some wonderful saves, especially in the case of dangerous close-range shots.

Claude T. Ashton (Winchester, Cambridge, and Corinthians) is one of a trio of brothers with wonderful sporting records. Claude obtained triple blues (cricket, soccer, and hockey) ; Hubert similarly distinguished himself, and Gilbert was a double blue (cricket and soccer). All three played for the Corinthians, but Claude got his amateur cap for England against Wales, and played in four other amateur internationals. His

selection to play centre-forward against Ireland created much discussion. Opinions varied greatly about which particular professional centre-forward was the best choice for the all-important pivot, but there was little belief that Ashton was the best possible selection for the position. Notwithstanding his individual dash he failed in giving cohesion to his line, and his shooting was weak. His two right-wing partners, Walker and Dorrell (Aston Villa) exhibited almost perfect understanding of each other, which threw into bold relief Ashton's lack in that direction, simply because of his want of practice in anything like similar conditions.

There is no gainsaying the fact that at the present time there are no really great amateurs such as were available some years before the War. It is sometimes asserted that amateurs fail to justify themselves in international and other great representative matches because the professionals do not go all out under an amateur captain. There is no real reason for any such belief any more than there is friction between the gentlemen and players in cricket. The noted football amateurs mentioned earlier—and there are others—were always warmly welcomed by the professionals with whom they played, simply because as players they were the equals of the paid fraternity. If a professional makes no real attempt to combine with his amateur partner, it is because he cannot trust him to rise to the

occasion, and he will pass the ball to another professional whom he knows will deal capably with it.

The football authorities for a long time appeared to believe that if only for the dignity of the game, the English side must contain some amateur element. It is a leaning that is understandable and enlists sympathy, but nowadays it is a fetish likely to result in failure rather than success. To put the matter baldly, an amateur who would not be welcomed gladly by a first-rate League team is certainly not class enough for any international game, much as one would like to see amateurs figuring in the classic struggles of the game that amateurs originally made.

In the international games of 1925–26 England drew with Ireland and was beaten by Wales, and the composition of the team to play against Scotland in April, 1926, was the subject of much preliminary newspaper discussion. Eventually the selection committee requisitioned seven players who had figured in the English League side that had beaten the Scottish League by 2 goals to 0, and of the other four players three were new to international honours. Only three of the side had played against Wales.

One notable selection was E. Harper (Blackburn Rovers) for the centre-forward position. With 41 goals to his credit up to date, he was the record goal scorer in English League football. The previous record was

38 goals scored by Freeman, of Everton, (1908–9) and J. Smith, of Bolton Wanderers (1920–21). The team contained only one London representative ; amateur talent was entirely absent ; and not a single player was contributed by either of the two clubs that had reached the Cup Final.

On the whole the English team was popularly approved, and although in the last five years Scotland had won three games and drawn two, strong hopes were entertained that the English forwards, backed by a very capable defence, would be strong enough to start another winning sequence.

The match, played at Newcastle, was full of thrills, but although England did not lack chances of scoring, the only goal fell to Scotland, leaving England not only beaten, but in possession of the " wooden spoon " of the season's international games.

CHAPTER IV

FOOTBALL BOOMS

THE inspirers of Association football were largely centred in London, and for some years their propaganda work did not meet with overwhelming success, but when the game was taken up in the provinces it made remarkable strides in popularity.

Sheffield claimed the honour of establishing the first provincial Association football club in September, 1857. The rules of the Eton field game were adopted, and matches were played by sides drawn only from their own members; but in 1860 the club gained a victory over the officers of the 58th Regiment which attracted considerable local attention; and when a club was formed at Hallam, it led to local rivalry that had a marked effect on the game. Early in 1861 Sheffield and Hallam met in a match that was fiercely contested for two and a half hours. Sheffield won, but in the return match, which occupied three hours, Hallam were the victors. In another match

between the rivals, later in the year in aid of the Public Hospital, played on the Hyde Park Cricket Ground, there were 600 spectators, which was a decidedly large gate for those days. This contest may be set down as the first charity football match.

The year 1862 saw the birth of more Sheffield clubs, raising the number to nearly a score in the town alone, and other Yorkshire towns were adopting the game, York being one of the number.

Reference has already been made to Sheffield's match against London in 1866, in which the actual result was of less importance than that the contest impressed upon clubs the necessity of having common rules. In that same year Sheffield football received a most promising recruit. The Sheffield Wednesday Cricket Club that was formed in 1820—and cricket had been developed to a remarkable extent in Sheffield—decided to form a football section in order to keep the members together during the winter months.

A year later the proprietor of a Sheffield music hall offered a silver cup for competition among the local clubs, which caused the Sheffield Association to come into being; and when in 1870 sixteen of its clubs joined the English Association, it was very solid proof that the game had secured a firm hold among the "Blades."

Football had now spread to Rotherham, Chesterfield, and Derby. A notable Derby

match was that between St. Andrew's and South Derbyshire at Osmaston Park, Derby. St. Andrew's were assisted by J. C. Clegg, his brother and several other Sheffielders. After the match the South Derbyshire Association was formed on the lines of the Sheffield Association. A year later it became the Derby Association.

In 1873 provincial football got a stimulus from the Royal Engineers, a famous southern club that undertook the first football tour. In December, at Bramall Lane, the Engineers beat Sheffield by 4 goals to 0, the first time a representative Sheffield eleven had been beaten at home. Two days later the Sappers beat the Derbyshire Association, and on the next day lowered the colours of Nottingham Forest, the score being 2 goals to 1 on each occasion. The Engineers won the three matches by their combination play, which was something of a revelation to the provincials, who would not fail to profit by the lesson.

The Sheffield club, after its spell of splendid pioneer work, began to find itself eclipsed, largely perhaps owing to the difficulty of securing a suitable ground. They entered, however, for the English Cup in 1873 and were drawn against Shropshire Wanderers. The match at Bramall Lane ended in a draw of no goals ; the replay at Shrewsbury had a similar ending, whereupon it was decided to toss for it, and Sheffield won the spin of the

coin. They met and defeated the Pilgrims in London in the second round. Their next opponents were Clapham Rovers ; the match was played on a neutral ground at Peterborough in January, 1874, when the London team gave Sheffield their *congé* by 2 goals to 1.

The Sheffield Association did remarkably well for the game by arranging inter-association matches with London in 1871, followed by similar fixtures with Glasgow and Birmingham. Putting up a challenge cup in 1876 for the clubs in its own Association (which included clubs as distant as Derby and Birmingham) was another move that stimulated public interest.

The old Sheffield Club, although it still exists, is practically unknown to the great football public of the present day, but its members can rightly pride themselves on the history of the club, and what it did for the game in the 'sixties.

The Wednesday Club, after an existence of sixty-six years, is still a power in the football world. They have been in the final for the English Cup three times and won it twice, and twice the League Championship has fallen to them. Sheffield United, who only came into existence in 1889, have won the Cup twice out of three appearances in the final, and secured the League Championship once.

Association football had taken a firm hold in Nottingham, there being two clubs—Notts County and Notts Forest, great rivals them-

selves and ready to challenge all comers. The quality of the Forest was evidenced by their match with the Engineers. In 1877 Notts County entered for the English Cup, but they went down to Sheffield by 3 goals to 0 in the first round. A year later the Forest entered for the national trophy, and made a notably bold bid for it. They knocked out Notts County after a drawn game, and followed it up by ousting Sheffield by 2 to 0. The Foresters then successively conquered Old Harrovians and Oxford University, which entitled them to meet Old Etonians in the semi-final, when the Nottingham hopes were quashed by 2 goals to 1. Notts County reached the final in 1891, but did not win the Cup until 1894, when they defeated Bolton Wanderers by 4 goals to 1. The Foresters had to wait four years longer before they won the football blue riband.

Lancashire followed the Rugby game until 1870, when some young Lancastrians, sons of mill-owners, educated at Harrow, introduced the school game into Darwen and Turton, a village near Bolton. The Turton Football Club was founded in 1872, and after playing under the Harrow rules for a couple of seasons those of the English Association were adopted. The employees of Orchard Mill, Darwen, meanwhile played both the Rugby and the Harrow game, until a series of accidents under the former code caused the " Darreners " to drop the handling game altogether in 1875.

It was the irony of fate that one of the young gentlemen pioneers should break a leg a couple of seasons later, which gave scope for the Rugger people to make caustic comments.

The game spread to Bolton, where a club was formed at Christ Church School. As the vicar viewed it as a purely parochial organization and insisted upon attending the committee meetings, the members made an hotel the headquarters of the club, and hence the name Bolton "Wanderers." The club appeared in the English Cup finals of 1894 and 1904, only to lose upon each occasion; but in 1923 they won the Cup under conditions that made astonishing football history, as will be set forth in later pages.

Blackburn took up Association football largely through Mr. A. N. Hornby, another old Harrovian, who for many years was captain of the Lancashire cricket eleven. He was connected with the Brookhouse Football Club, and another one in the town was known as Cob Wall, which was established about the same time. Towards the end of 1874 Mr. John Lewis (afterwards famous as a football legislator, and an unrivalled referee) was instrumental in calling a meeting, at which it was decided to form the Blackburn Rovers, who made an excellent start by not losing a match in their first season, although they always played on opponents' enclosures because they had no ground of their own.

In less than ten years they began putting up records in connection with the English Cup that in some respects have never been equalled. Various other clubs, such as Accrington and Church, arose in the district, but a new club destined to win great fame was the Blackburn Olympic. It is true that it was very short-lived, but nevertheless it will ever be remembered in football annals.

It was only natural that Darwen and Blackburn Rovers should be great rivals. Darwen entered for the English Cup in 1877, but fell to Sheffield in the first round. A year later, however, they did better : they defeated Birch, Eagley, and Slough Remnants in turn, and then had to journey to London on February 13, 1879, to face Old Etonians in the fourth round. The townspeople of Darwen subscribed the funds to send their champions forth to battle for Lancashire. It proved to be a remarkable game. Not a few people deemed it presumption on the part of Darwen workmen to suppose they would have the remotest chance against the gentlemen players who had learnt the game at Eton ; and when the Old Etonians were leading by 4 goals to 0 at half-time, that opinion appeared to be verified, and especially when the Etonians added another goal soon after the interval. In proof of their northern grit, however, the " Darreners " then reduced their opponents' lead by a couple of goals, and in the last quarter of an hour scored

three more to make the game five all when the whistle blew. Darwen desired to play on, but the Etonians had had enough for the day, and Darwen returned home to be acclaimed as heroes worthy of the highest football Valhalla for so rising to the occasion when all had seemed lost. There was no doubt about the town finding funds for a second visit to the Metropolis, and it should be recorded that the English Association subscribed £10, and the Old Etonians themselves showed their sportsmanship by contributing £5. The two teams met on March 8th, and after two hours' desperate play the match ended in another draw. A week later Darwen succumbed by 6 goals to 2. Upon top of the two previous hard struggles they had been greatly tried by tiring journeys, and the long-drawn-out excitement at home was not at all conducive to the exhibition of their best form. Nevertheless Darwen had made a gallant fight, and eventually had the satisfaction of knowing that they had been beaten by the ultimate winners of the Cup, for in the semi-final the Etonians beat Nottingham Forest, and in the final conquered Clapham Rovers.

Darwen, in reaching the fourth round, and the Forest, in going one stage farther, gave provincial clubs an incentive that would be sure to bear fruit. Mr. Alcock, in his annual report of the season, expressed the opinion that it would have stimulated interest in the

Cup, and would have been in the best interests of the game, if the trophy could have been taken from London by a northern team. It was recognized that long journeys were a great handicap—railway journeys were slower, and there were then no dining facilities—which resulted in the country being mapped out into several divisions, which obviated provincial clubs leaving their own districts until the last two rounds.

Various provincial associations now had competitions of their own that gave rise to great local excitement, but even in these early days there was a glamour about the English Cup, a spirit of adventure in the quest of it, that no purely local trophy could inspire.

Birmingham was another centre where the Association game sprang into prominence in but the space of a few years. There happened to be in Birmingham two young Scotsmen—John Carson, who had played for Queen's Park, and J. Campbell Orr, of St. Andrew's University—and through the enterprising couple in 1873 a club was formed, styled the Calthorpe, because they played in a public park of that name. Just as at Sheffield, there were plenty to scoff, but the game very quickly gained adherents. A year later the members of a cricket club, who were young men connected with Aston Villa Wesleyan Chapel, Handsworth, a suburb of Birmingham, took up football. For their initial game they

hired a football for eighteenpence, which did not seem anything to show that the club would climb to perhaps the loftiest pinnacle in the football world. Aston Unity was another club that earned considerable local fame, as did St. George's Excelsior. Another club within the borough boundaries was Small Heath Alliance, which was the forerunner of the Birmingham club of to-day.

The game spread to other towns in the Birmingham district, two notable clubs being Wednesbury Old Athletic, and Stafford Road, Wolverhampton. Mr. Charles Crump was a playing member of the latter. When the Birmingham and District Association was formed in 1875 he was elected president, which position he filled until his death in 1924. In the intervening years he held high office in the English Association, and as a most practical football legislator he acted with rare distinction and dignity.

The Birmingham Association instituted a challenge cup worth £50. Sixteen clubs entered for it in 1876, and in the final in March, 1877, Wednesbury Old Athletic defeated Stafford Road by 3 goals to 2. The gate was £15. As there were 2,000 spectators, which was a remarkable concourse for that day, presumably the majority were on the free list, since the takings averaged less than twopence per head. Three years later the Association numbered fifty clubs, and in the succeeding season the local elevens arranged

no less than three hundred matches, which betokened that the game was assuming the proportions of a boom.

A similar expansion had materialized in Scotland. The international match of 1872 created widespread interest, although at the time all the Association clubs over the Border did not number a dozen. In that same year, however, a number of very important clubs were formed, among them: Glasgow Rangers, Vale of Leven, Third Lanark R. V., Renton, Dumbarton, and Clydesdale; and in each case Queen's Park persuaded the new organizations to play under the English Association rules almost in their entirety. The next year the Heart of Midlothian began its career. In 1875 the Scottish Association had nearly fifty clubs affiliated, but there were five times as many by 1880; in 1871 Edinburgh could boast of only four clubs, but they were soon quadrupled; and Ayrshire Association at the same time numbered more than fifty clubs, with a membership of 3,000. With such enthusiasm and with so many players at their disposal, there was no wonder that the Scottish international team beat England six times out of the first ten matches.

CHAPTER V

THE ADVENT OF PROFESSIONALISM

TIME was when a few enthusiasts met to play the game in a very simple form and at very little expense to themselves; but when the game became a public spectacle, when competitions created intense excitement, as did even ordinary matches when there was something like hereditary rivalry between teams, the game took on an entirely different aspect. English crowds will not tolerate mediocre sport of any kind, and hence there arose a demand for finished play which could only be supplied by better-trained athletes. As the game had been taken up largely by the working classes, who depended upon their weekly wages, they could not give the time to attain the expertness that the public desired. It thus came about that when a club could afford it, players were encouraged to train and practise in mid-week, and their loss in wages was made up by disbursements from the club funds, with perhaps a little

additional for those members who might feel disposed to throw in their lot with a club possessed of a longer purse and more liberal ideas.

The thin end of the great wedge that was about to be driven into English football perhaps made its first trifling mark in Yorkshire. When the Glasgow team visited Sheffield in the middle 'seventies, Peter Andrews, a Scottish player, did not return to Glasgow, but remained behind and joined the Heeley club, and a little later the Wednesday had a Scottish player in the person of James Lang. It was asserted that both Scots had migrated to Sheffield in search of situations, but it was speedily evident that their sole occupation was football.

Similarly, Darwen numbered two Scots in their eleven. One of them, Suter, was a stonemason by trade, and in truth he worked at it for a brief spell. Then he declared that Lancashire stone was harder than that to which he had been accustomed in Scotland, and such arduous labour unfitted him to give of his best on the football field. Consequently he gave up work, and it was obvious that the club at least found the wherewithal for his keep, and the canny Scot could be trusted to see that there was some margin for something beyond mere necessities. Hugh McIntyre, of the Glasgow Rangers, offered his services to Nottingham Forest, if they would find him a situation as an upholsterer in the town.

The Forest, being a notch or two above the working class club, did nothing to facilitate the Scot's migration to Nottingham, and when shortly he was found wearing the colours of Blackburn Rovers, it was not difficult to come to a conclusion very near the truth of the matter; James Douglas, a Scottish international, also joined the Rovers. Perhaps it was to fraternize with his two compatriots that instigated Suter to leave Darwen for Blackburn, although doubtless the Darwen club could have given another reason. They made no outcry about it: they simply got several Scottish recruits to atone for his defection.

Something of the same kind happened in Birmingham, although perhaps it was a little less obtrusive. Archie Hunter, of Ayr Thistle, in 1878 certainly found employment with a hardware factor, and there was nothing remarkable in his joining Aston Villa that was then of only minor importance. A year later his brother, Andy, joined him, and it would be difficult to believe that football had not attracted him, even though he, too, found employment in the town.

The officials of the English Association, who did not view this new feature with approval, were stirred into action by the complaint of the Scottish Association that certain clubs in England were paying their players for their services, and that a number of Scots had been tempted to leave their native land in con-

sequence. Thereupon the English Association forbade any player to receive any money over and above his expenses or wages actually lost by time given to football. Commissions of inquiry were set up to examine the accounts of suspected clubs, but the books very calculatingly camouflaged the real facts. In no case did they disclose payments to players except such as were strictly in accordance with football law. In most cases players were paid out of the gate, and the balance appeared in the accounts as the gross takings. Notwithstanding that it was a practical certainty that a club was a flagrant offender, the charge was most difficult to prove. The Lancashire clubs, in particular, paid no heed to the resolutions of the parent Association, but went in for more and more importations in order to improve their play before the crowds that not only grew in size, but their critical consideration of the players became more acute. Only a friendly match between Blackburn Rovers and Darwen in 1880 drew a crowd of 10,000 that yielded a gate of more than £250, plain evidence that clubs had money to spend.

Matters were brought rather to a head in 1884, when Preston North End played Upton Park at Preston in an English Cup-tie in the presence of 12,000 people. The match ended in a draw but the London team lodged a protest on the ground that the Preston players were paid. Preston boldly admitted

the charge, declared that it was a state of affairs common to many Lancashire clubs, and that clubs in other parts of the country were also equally guilty. The Association promptly ruled Preston out of the competition, but it was obvious the matter would not rest there, especially as in the Lancashire press it was averred that even Scottish clubs were employing professional players. The Association laid down specific rules to meet the situation, insisting that in the Cup competition no club was to play an important member of a different nationality without he had been previously approved of by the Association ; and no player was to be remunerated except in accordance with the previous rule bearing on expenses and wages actually lost.

The leading clubs of Lancashire, to the number of a score, took umbrage at this decision. They not only withdrew from the Cup competition, but proceeded to form the British Football Association that would permit clubs to play men of any nationality. A conference was called at Manchester in October, 1884, to which nearly forty clubs sent representatives. Some prominent clubs declined to send delegates ; Darwen, Blackburn Rovers and Blackburn Olympic were three of them ; the Rovers were the holders of the Cup, and the Olympic had held it in the previous year. Darwen and the Rovers made it clear that they wished to remain loyal to the parent Association. In the end

the meeting decided to circulate the opinion of an eminent counsel that the Football Association was exceeding its powers in attempting to coerce clubs in the matter of professionalism, and rules and regulations were to be drawn up for a constitution.

In view of what happened at a later stage, it should be recorded that the Birmingham Association passed a resolution against professionalism, regretting the attempt to form a rival semi-professional Association, and beseeching all clubs not to support those who were in rebellion against long-constituted authority.

A sub-committee of the Football Association recommended that professionalism be legalized under certain stringent conditions, but that no paid player should be allowed to participate in the Cup competition. Upon consideration it was recognized that even professionals could not be shut out of what was a national competition; but it was proposed that professionals should have either a birth qualification, or a residential one of two years, dating from October, 1884. The Scottish Association threw some light on the matter by naming nearly sixty Scots who were living in England, who would not be allowed to play in Scotland again without first obtaining official permission. With the exception of the Hunters in Birmingham, the renegade Scots were practically all in Lancashire.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH, ENGLAND *v* SCOTLAND
AN ENGLISH FORWARD GETS HIS PASS IN BEFORE BEING TACKLED

The Football Association called a meeting for January 19, 1885, to consider the cat that had got among the football pigeons. It happened that only two days earlier Preston North End, an avowed professional organization, were meeting the Corinthians, the crack amateur team, in London. The game was watched by many important personages in the football world, and there was not the slightest doubt that the finished play of Preston, together with their gentlemanly demeanour, made a marked impression on some of the football legislators, who had been viewing professionals as buccaneers deserving of the shortest shrift.

At the Football Association meeting there was a great attendance of delegates, with Major Marindin in the chair, another gentleman stalwart to whom the Association game was deeply indebted. The meeting was obviously divided into two camps—Lancashire and the North on one side, and the Midlands and the South on the other. Yet it was Mr. Alcock, the sporting, far-seeing old Harrovian, who moved that it was expedient to legalize professionalism. He emphasized the fact that professionalism had not destroyed cricket and other games ; it was recognized even in lawn tennis ; and he did not omit to draw attention to the fact that the Corinthians had met Preston only forty-eight hours earlier, resulting in a game about which the gentlemen could not possibly have any regrets.

Mr. Charles Crump, as the spokesman of the Birmingham Association, declared that professionalism would ruin the game, and maintained that the rules of the Association were sufficient to prevent the abuses connected with payment and importation. When Mr. Crump had been supported by the Sheffield representative, Mr. Sudell, the manager of the Preston club roundly charged Birmingham with playing men who had been professionals in Lancashire, and it was only common sense to assume they had removed into the Midlands to better themselves. He asserted that sham amateurs were to be found everywhere, not even excepting Sheffield ; and he maintained that now that football was yielding increasingly large gates, professionalism was only a natural corollary that needed open recognition, which would prevent abuses, while attempts to smother it would only result in far worse evils.

Mr. William McGregor had come up with Mr. Crump from the Birmingham Association, and during the journey to London the couple discussed, and agreed upon the points they had to make against professionalism. Mr. Crump had faithfully followed out his instructions by nothing less than a dismal jeremiad against the paid player. Now, to his utter amazement, Mr. McGregor stood up and candidly admitted that professionalism did exist in Birmingham, and as chairman of Aston Villa he was in a position to know

what he was talking about. He knew, for example, that out of an annual income of over £1,900 there was little more than £10 that had not gone in management expenses.

Years afterwards Mr. Crump told the writer that he could have struck " Mac " on the spot for so unexpectedly recanting, but later he realized that it was Mr. McGregor's innate honesty and love of fair play that refused to permit him to be a party to deception any longer. There was no doubt that McGregor's admission had a marked effect on those delegates who had been waiting for a lead, and when the matter was put to the vote 113 were in favour of professionalism being legalized, and 108 were against. It needed a two-third's majority to carry the debated point, but there was no gainsaying the fact that professionalism had won a number of new adherents.

In March, 1885, at another great meeting the voting was 106 in favour and 69 against, which showed that professionalism was still making converts ; and eventually in July the professional was fully recognized with either a birth qualification or a two years' residential one within six miles of the club's headquarters. There were other provisions, such as the registration of all professionals, but the main fact was that clubs henceforth could openly employ paid players.

Although the parent Association had formally recognized professionalism and had

legislated for it, some of the associations still opposed it. Birmingham and Nottingham did not yield for some time, but the London Association opposed professionalism for years longer, which resulted in amateur football thriving much more in the south than in the north. Naturally the Scottish Association was up in arms ; they had already lost many good men, and many more would now assuredly be attracted to England. Scottish clubs were ordered not to play against professionals, and it was even declared that Scotland would not meet England in any international game if professionals were included in the English eleven. To such lengths were the Scots prepared to go that Dr. John Smith, a famous Queen's Park centre-forward, was debarred from playing either for or against any Scottish club because he had played for the Corinthians on the occasion of their antagonizing Bolton Wanderers. Dr. Smith pungently retorted with the charge that the payment of players was quite common in Scotland itself. In the end not only did the international game take place, but one of the Scottish eleven was James Forrest, who was one of Blackburn Rovers' professional half-backs.

A notable new fixture (1886) was a Gentlemen and Players match in aid of London charities, which was played at Kennington Oval. The Players were represented by Preston North End, and the

Gentlemen were the Corinthians. Particular éclat was given to this match by the presence of the Prince of Wales (afterwards King Edward VII). It was the first time royalty had graced any such occasion, and Mr. Sudell and N. J. Ross, the Preston captain, were presented to His Royal Highness. Mr. Alcock, in the next Football Annual, did not hesitate to say that this incident put the seal on the new movement. This great match went to prove that open professionalism was a far better state of affairs than shoddy amateurism, with its devious shifts and expedients to avoid exposure.

By the middle of the year 1889 all checks on the importation of Scottish players into England were removed, and the little trickle that had begun thirteen years earlier developed into a perfect spate of Scottish players, who passed over the Border in search of English bawbees. Twelve months later there were about 230 Scots registered in England as professionals. They were picked men whose influence would not be confined to their own particular clubs ; they would raise the standard of play generally, for coincident with the rise of clubs that sought gates, the youth of the country was engaging more and more in football, to the good of their bodies and the general well-being of the community.

The recognition of professionalism led to raids beyond " Tweed's silver streams " in

search of talent, with the result that several noted Scottish clubs were denuded of their best players in order to make sport for the Southern multitudes. In many of the leading teams Scots preponderated, and in almost every case they were at least the backbone of the team.

English football agents who went to Scotland poaching for promising players occasionally met with trying experiences. In some of the Scottish villages brigandage would have been viewed as a mild offence compared to the annexation of a local football favourite, and more than once an unwelcome emissary was ducked in a burn preparatory to an exhilarating cross-country run.

When a player was in great request the artifices of rival agents to outwit each other sometimes led to amusing results. An agent upon one occasion was informed that a certain player was at that moment in an adjoining hostelry. Entering a room, he found a likely-looking Scot sitting at a table, who readily answered to the name, and for an immediate consideration of £10 affixed his signature to an agreement between himself and a Southern club. When the recruit came to stand up dire was the agent's confusion to discover he had "signed" a man who was the unhappy owner of a wooden leg. He possessed the same patronymic as the coveted player, and that practically was his nearest football qualification. The canny Scot

intimated his willingness to fulfil his contract, and on that account absolutely refused to part with his retaining fee.

When the competition for a player is keen, managers resort to all kinds of manœuvres to get ahead of their rivals. When Bert Lipsham was travelling to Stoke to be interviewed by several managers, Mr. Nicholson, Sheffield United secretary, joined the train midway, and by the time they reached Stoke, Lipsham had signed on for the United. Upon another occasion Mr. Nicholson was visiting a prospective recruit some miles out of Newcastle. He knew other agents were after him too, and was greatly chagrined when he was unable to charter a vehicle in which to complete the journey. It is said that an empty hearse happened to come that way, and the anxious Sheffielder struck a bargain with the driver, and, thanks to the lugubrious vehicle, he beat the other managers on the post.

CHAPTER VI

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PRACTICALLY coincident with the adoption of professionalism there was another movement initiated that would work almost a revolution in the management of the game so far as clubs catering for public support were concerned. For years clubs frequently found themselves compelled to cancel standing fixtures on account of national and local cup-ties. In former days the disarrangement of matches was of no great concern, but with the demands of a weekly salary sheet to meet, it became a serious matter to have a match with a popular and crowd-drawing club cancelled, and hurriedly replaced with a far less attractive match, with consequent lack of public interest and a corresponding shortage in the gate money. Some clubs found that cup-ties so interfered with the fixtures arranged for a season that it was scarcely worth while having a list printed.

Again, a team that was straining every

nerve to win a trophy of some kind frequently on the Saturday previous to the cup-tie would place in the field a second eleven in order to give the first team a rest in readiness for what was considered the more important fray. Not only were teams often weak, they were sometimes incomplete and had to be made up with substitutes picked up on the field. The times of kick-off, too, were subject to continual variation because of visiting clubs cutting matters too fine in the selection of their trains.

Cup competitions were capable of two quite contrary effects: they tuned up a team to give of its best, and there was nothing like cup-tie success to cause the public to roll up to the turnstiles; but when a club was knocked out of a competition there was a slump in the enthusiasm of the players, and corresponding deflation of popular interest that spelt depletion in the club coffers. What was wanted was something like the cricket championship, in which a defeat did not necessarily mean the extinction of all interest for the remainder of the season.

Mr. William McGregor was the football genius who evolved a scheme that would energize club football almost past belief. He conferred with several of the leading clubs, with the result that in April, 1888, at a meeting in Manchester twelve clubs formed themselves into a body that was styled the Football League. More clubs wished to join,

but at that time there were only just sufficient vacant dates for the arrangement of home and away matches which assured to each club twenty-two League games. All matches were to be played under the rules of the Football Association, and consequently the specific League rules were few in number, but they would have marked effect in putting football upon a much better footing.

The twelve clubs undertook to support each other, and particularly did they bind themselves to carry out in the strictest sense the arrangements for matches made between them, and not allow them to be cancelled for cup-ties or any other matches. Each club was expected to play its full strength, no matter what other match might be impending. Offending clubs or players would be dealt with by the League in such manner as befitted any particular case. Referees were to be paid a regulation fee of a guinea, plus third-class railway fare; and where two clubs could not agree upon a referee, the Secretary of the League was empowered to send one.

The League consisted of the following clubs: Accrington, Aston Villa, Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, Derby County, Everton, Notts County, Preston North End, Stoke, West Bromwich Albion, and Wolverhampton Wanderers.

They were all professional teams, six of them belonging to Lancashire and six to the

Midlands. Eight of them were still in the First League in 1925–26, but four of them were in the Second League. A number of famous present-day League teams were not in existence in 1888, notably Cardiff, Huddersfield, Newcastle United, and Sheffield United. Sunderland was then only two years old, and had yet to make a name. In 1925–26 there were three London teams in the First League and three in the Second, but at its institution the London clubs had not adopted professionalism and would have been outclassed.

Mr. McGregor, who became known as the "Father of the League," was its first president, and no football organization could have had a more practical and also a more enthusiastic chairman. He was born at Braco, a village in Perthshire, and came to Birmingham with his brother, Peter, at the age of twenty-three. There he saw the Calthorpe club playing, and thence onwards until his death in 1918 it was a rarity for him to miss seeing a match on a Saturday afternoon. At holiday times the Highland Society in Birmingham played football matches in which Mr. McGregor regularly took part, as he did in matches at shinty or hockey. In a very short time he was attracted to the Aston Villa matches. He became a member of the club in 1877, was made a vice-president in the same year, and afterwards rendered the club such signal

service in its management that he was made a life member. In 1893 Mr. McGregor resigned the presidency of the League owing to business claims leaving him with less time to devote to football affairs. Upon his retirement he was presented with a gold medal and made a life member of the League. To the day of his death he was a great power in football, his unfailing amiability endearing him to all, while in times of stress his energy and calm judgment were recognized even by those temporarily in opposition to any policy he was advocating.

The Football League now consists of First Division, Second Division, Third Division (northern section), and Third Division (southern section)—twenty-two clubs in each, or eighty-eight in all. The two bottom clubs in a Division at the end of a season are relegated to the Division below, their places being taken by the two top clubs in the lower Division. This purely automatic arrangement was not in existence at first. In the original League the four bottom clubs retired, but could be re-elected by the eight successful clubs, or other teams could be selected by vote to take their places. A later method was for the three bottom teams of the First League to play matches with the three top clubs in the Second League. If a First League team won, it retained its place, but if defeated, it changed places with its conqueror.

From the first day of the football season to the last there is constant interest in the League tables, especially where teams are fighting for championship honours or promotion at the tops of the tables, or struggling desperately in the neighbourhood of the bottom to avoid relegation. Success means popular support and flourishing coffers, while mediocrity meets with assured apathy on the part of the public, with corresponding poverty, that puts a club at least temporarily out of joint, until it buckles to and fights its way back into the company of the football elect.

The present-day arrangement of divisions was the outcome of experience. A number of clubs shut out of the original League promptly formed themselves into a similar body called the Combination, and a year later a third league, called the Alliance, came into existence. Eventually all were brought under the wing of the one body, and the present scheme works with a smoothness that is patent to all, with a general cultivation of interest that is undeniable. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, nothing was ever more flattered than the Football League, for leagues became a perfect rage in connection with all kinds of games, from cricket down to ping-pong.

A whole volume could be written about the doings of the League that has provided the public with a perpetual feast of first-class

football, in contradistinction to the ephemeral excitement which the National Cup competition creates in ever-changing districts. One week it may be setting a district on fire, and the next gloom reigns in its stead, but in the League competition the interest is sustained sometimes until the very last kick of a season.

At first the champions of the League were rewarded with a simple flag of honour, which in time gave place to the regulation and almost inevitable cup. Once a great soap firm offered to supply a trophy valued at £500 and medals for the season's champions, but the League had sufficient sense of its own dignity to refuse to allow itself to be exploited through the medium of what would have been a huge advertisement.

When Mr. McGregor retired from the presidency of the Football League, he was succeeded by Mr. J. J. Bentley, who as a boy learnt his football at Turton, when the villagers were being initiated into the Harrow rules. In due course he was captain of the club ; several times he played for his county ; and in 1885 he became secretary of Bolton Wanderers. He was a truly great referee, and never was one more sparing with the whistle. With his varied experience in football life Mr. Bentley was well qualified to follow Mr. McGregor. He had not the fluency of the " Father of the League," but he knew his own mind and could express himself with

convincing directness. Such a man was wanted to pilot the League through the shoals that still lay ahead.

In 1891 some of the Lancashire clubs were thinking of leaving the League in order to set up an organization of their own, but Mr. McGregor's tact and silver oratory induced the malcontents to swear undying loyalty, an undertaking that has never since been shaken.

In 1895 Mr. Bentley was presented with a similar task in dealing with some Midland clubs who were at loggerheads with Lancashire and the clubs in the extreme north. They were preparing a scheme that would enable them to control certain decisions at the forthcoming annual meeting. President Bentley, however, got wind of the movement, and took steps that eventually satisfied the malcontents.

When the League was founded there had been an assumption that the gates would be pooled, but the idea came to nothing at the time, and upon several occasions when the subject was definitely raised the richer clubs defeated any scheme of equal sharing.

Another most important question was the remuneration of players, and one of Mr. Bentley's first duties was to preside over a large meeting convened to consider proposals put forward by the Management Committee.

It was urged that no League club player should receive more than £140 for one year ; and it should be optional for a club to pay a

player during the close season, but any such payment should not exceed one pound per week.

No player should be paid a bonus on engagement by a club if he was already a League player, and if he was new to the League the bonus should not exceed £10.

Every club should keep an accurate account of all payments made to players, such accounts to be produced at any time on the order of the League.

Any club infringing those rules should be subject to a fine of £200, suffer the deduction of six points in the League table, and also be liable to expulsion.

It is a debatable point whether the passing of the suggested new rules would not have been in the real interests of professional football, while they certainly would have conduced to the peace of mind of football club committees.

About this very time the writer expressed some opinions on the subject in a London weekly :

" A great drain upon a club's exchequer is the retaining wages paid to players during the close season, when for four months the income is nil. Several football clubs have endeavoured to popularize baseball as a means of solving the summer difficulty, but the American game never caught on, notwithstanding the importation of American professionals to inaugurate a boom.

"From a financial point of view the conditions of professional football are certainly not so healthy as might be desired. At the present moment it is a positive fact that the sixteen clubs in the First League alone have a total adverse balance of from twelve to fifteen thousand pounds. This ominous feature cannot possibly make for the good of the pastime, if it does not absolutely mar its future. Yet prices for transfer and the wages of players show no signs of decreasing, nor will they do so as long as a good team means a good gate. Clubs with long purses will continue to bid heavily for noted players, whose services they will always wish to obtain so long as 'applause waits on success.'"

However, now that these vital points were under discussion, the richer and more powerful clubs—in other words, the clubs that could command large gates—took the view that the poorer clubs were seeking to set themselves up as dictators; it was also claimed that as the players themselves attracted the gates, they were entitled to first consideration. Thus the League clubs decided to go on struggling year after year against indebtedness, each club trusting more or less to luck to see them through their difficulties.

When the Football League first got to work some of its opponents declared it to be "the acme of athletic horrors," whose clubs were the "vastest and shoddiest of money-

making concerns," created by a greed and pressure which would speedily ensure its own destruction.

The success and present-day powerfulness of the League speaks for itself in refutation of the doleful prophecy. When it had been in existence only eight years, its then sixteen clubs played 480 matches, which were witnessed by about three million spectators, who paid considerably more than the £50,000 required for the players' wages.

Since then Association football has made phenomenal strides, as will be demonstrated later, when various clubs come under review, and particularly the triumphant progress of the national Cup competition.

The Football League was instituted at a time when football needed to be saved from falling into chaos. At first it was perhaps viewed as a rival to the Football Association, but it was soon perceived that each had its own special functions to perform without infringing upon the other. It must be admitted that the Football Association exhibited a sweet reasonableness that made for amicable working.

The League worked wonders for football for some years, until the game attained such a general level of excellence that any further marked progress could not be looked for. It may be urged that the League has made football a business, but the same might be said of county cricket. The sport that

attracts multitudes week in, week out, throughout eight months of the year must necessarily have a business side. Vast crowds have to be catered for, not only to provide a sporting spectacle, but to take measures that it may be witnessed in comfort and in safety.

There is no getting rid of the money problem. The poorer clubs have to make at least a decent showing against their richer rivals on the field. There is always the glorious uncertainty of the game in which upon many occasions an almost despised club has snatched the highest football honours out of the grasp of an organization with a specially long purse.

When the League was founded there was no dearth of players who could be obtained for thirty shillings a week, but such a low wage is a thing of the past. Again, players could be transferred from one club to another for very little consideration. In 1895, when £350 was paid for a transfer, it was considered a most exorbitant figure, whereas to-day such a sum would not procure even a second-rater.

To-day the maximum payment to a player is £8 per week, plus £2 for a win ; and it is understood that length of service entitles a player to a benefit. The rules do not say what *must* be paid. It practically means that the player has to make the best terms he can, and if the club is in low water it is very certain the maximum payment will not gladden his football heart. In a census taken

by the Players' Union a few years ago it was ascertained that not more than 150 professionals were getting full pay. In some quite good teams there was not a single player receiving £8 per week. The benefits, too, are a very uncertain quantity. Some clubs are considerate in that respect, and in some cases players have played, say, for ten or twelve years and have enjoyed a couple of benefits; but there are instances where a player has been in regular service for twenty years without a benefit.

The maximum benefit is £650—which has been reached in only a few instances. No collection is allowed round the ground at the benefit match. Compared with the cricketer, the football professional is very badly off, bearing in mind that a popular cricketer's benefit may run into several thousand pounds.

It is calculated that there are not more than 5,000 professional footballers in England; about 3,000 of them are in the League—First, Second and Third divisions; the others are scattered throughout the numerous minor leagues, up and down the country, and any payment will be correspondingly small.

It is doubtful if there are a hundred and fifty Scots in the First and Second divisions of the League, and probably they are in no greater proportion than they were thirty years ago.

With a number of League clubs bordering on bankruptcy, the question that will have

to be tackled is the ever-increasing price demanded for the transfer of players. Time was when the payment of £1000 created quite a sensation. Such a figure is now a commonplace. £6,000 has been topped several times, and Newcastle United in December, 1925, obtained Gallagher from Dundee for a figure exceeding £7,000. Even then the tendency was still upwards, for it was reported that one club had sent another a blank cheque for a coveted player; and another club made no secret of its intention to go up to £10,000.

In the first three months of the season 1925–26 English clubs spent over £30,000 for new players, most of which went to Scotland. Four players alone accounted for a very great deal of that large amount.

There is no wage limit in Scotland, where it is said some specially favoured players receive £20 per week. Such cases must be very exceptional, if they exist at all, else the canny Scots would not come over the Border for the limited pay permitted in England. Nor can the Scottish clubs make any great outcry about their country's loss of football talent, for if the player desires to improve himself not a few Scottish clubs with gates averaging perhaps not more than 12,000 find a cheque for £5,000 a welcome addition to the club exchequer.

The supporters of a club demand good play in return for their admission money, and

failing to get it speedily show the club executive alarming reductions in the weekly gate, which may be accepted as a trumpet call to strengthen the side without delay.

The ready-made crack player may please his new patrons, but there is not the slightest doubt that the local lad who has risen to fame delights them a great deal more.

Several noted clubs have never paid fabulous prices for imported players, always preferring local talent if it is obtainable. Aston Villa, West Bromwich Albion, and Wolverhampton Wanderers have always had a good sprinkling of players born within a few miles of the club house, and their imported Scots in particular have been comparatively few and far between. Yet the Villa has won some record football honours; the Albion has made football history upon numerous occasions; and the Wolves even when in low water are not easily overcome.

Instead of raking Great Britain for crack players ready to their hand, it would benefit football immensely if clubs would look closer to home, where there is always promising material to be found by those who know how to look for it. Some clubs are now considering the establishment of football nurseries. The footballer requires to be caught young, so that he can progress on right lines, with benefit to himself, the uplifting of the game, and great saving to the

team that has the necessary perspicacity to follow a programme of its own.

Again, while some clubs are frequently in the market for new players at fancy prices, there are several clubs that generally contrive to have useful players for disposal. Blackpool is a notable example. They have frequently obtained a player for a comparatively small sum, and in a season or two have transferred him at a considerably higher figure. In March 1920 alone their transfers brought in £10,000.

Illustrating the risks attached to the payment of heavy transfer fees, Blackpool, departing from its usual practice, paid £1,500 for the transfer of Williams, an outside-left from Everton. He broke an arm in the first match for his new club, and was out of the game for a very long time.

Other similar examples could be quoted, but one will serve. Gilhooley was transferred by Hull to Sunderland for £5,000. Owing to an early injury he fell out of the team for a considerable time, necessitating his place being filled, and when he was fit again he was transferred to Bradford City.

Some professionals are veritable football bagmen. Harold Crockford played centre-forward for Fulham, Exeter City, Port Vale, Gillingham, and Accrington Stanley—six clubs, all in the course of three years, and then was on the transfer list again. Yet Crockford was rather a terrific shot and a prolific scorer.

There are occasions when quite a noted player proves to be a bad bargain, not for lack of football skill, but merely because he cannot fit himself in with his new club's style of play. He fails to come up to expectations, and at the same time lets his side down, which is not conducive to club harmony.

London is notoriously a place where imported players from the north fail to do themselves justice. There is no doubt that they find the climate enervating, and the attractions of London are liable to unsettle a newcomer for a considerable time. There is another very solid reason why many professionals have no desire to come to London. If they are in receipt of the maximum wage in the Midlands or the North, the double cost of living in the Metropolis would mean a change distinctly to a player's disadvantage.

It must not be forgotten that professional football does not end with the payment of wages. Vast crowds clamouring for admission into popular football grounds touch business at quite a number of points. If it were possible it would be interesting to calculate what revenues the football fans bring to the coffers of the railway, tram, and 'bus companies, and there are other means of vehicular locomotion. The teams in the four divisions of the League alone must spend a great deal in railway travelling, and the excursionists who sometimes travel almost the entire length of the country in order to

cheer their favourites on to victory make up another big bill for the footing.

It is possible to ascertain what the four groups in the League contribute to the National exchequer in the shape of entertainment tax. In 1924–25 it amounted to more than £207,000, or, at the same rate, more than a million pounds for the post-war years alone. Taking in the multitude of other leagues, there does not appear to be any doubt that Soccer has paid fifteen million pounds to the State. Football may be a business, but it has points of which other businesses cannot boast. All that is made in the game goes back into the game. More than sixty per cent. of the proceeds after deduction of the entertainment tax probably goes to the players, and the remainder is easily swallowed up in the unavoidable organization expenses, and in not a few instances in greatly improved grounds that provide scope for considerable outside employment.

There is one matter in which our great football clubs can take pride. They have ever been ready to play charity matches for numerous worthy objects, sometimes national affairs, but more often for local hospitals and other philanthropic institutions that deserve support.

The Football League has legislated splendidly for the professional clubs, and has prevented endless abuses that would have arisen but for its wise and firm control ; it

has provided the public with what may be termed regular and dependable games and so far as general excellence and consistency of form are concerned the team that heads the League table may fairly be regarded as the real champions of the season.

In the thirty-four seasons that elapsed between the inception of the League and the end of the season 1925–26 the championship had been won by only thirteen different clubs. Aston Villa topped the list with six victories. Five of them they won between the years 1893 and 1900, which was a wonderful record of consistency in a period of seven years. Ten years passed before they attained championship honours again (1910). In the succeeding sixteen years they have failed to head the League table, although they reached the Cup Final three times and won the trophy twice. Sunderland have been League champions five times ; Liverpool four ; Newcastle United and Huddersfield three each ; Preston North End, Everton, Sheffield Wednesday, Blackburn Rovers, and Manchester United twice each ; and Sheffield United, Burnley, and West Bromwich Albion have been champions only once each.

Huddersfield's rise to football fame has been accomplished in an unusually short period. The club was not founded until 1912, and prior to the War was only struggling in the Second Division. In the first season after the resumption of the game (1919–20) they

won promotion to the First Division, and were also runners-up for the English Cup. Two years later they won the Cup for the first time, which was a great feat for so young an organization. Since then they have set up a new record in the League competition by winning the championship for three successive seasons (1923–26). Six times in the history of the competition had clubs won the championship for two successive seasons, but Huddersfield is the only one that can lay proud claim to the " hat trick."

CHAPTER VII

THE ROMANCE OF THE ENGLISH CUP

THERE is a romantic glamour about the English Cup with which no League results can possibly compare. The inception of the Cup goes back almost to the very beginning of organized football; fighting for it is a football adventure for the players; and the eleven stalwarts who prove to be the victors not only cover themselves with individual glory, but bring undying football fame to the club whose colours they wear.

In the present-day competition a hundred of the stronger clubs are excused from playing in the preliminary qualifying rounds in order to obviate the meeting of teams of vastly different calibre. When all the candidates went into the hat together some of the resulting matches were mere football farces e.g., Preston North End once beat Hyde by 26 goals to 0. Apart from the fact that there is no pleasure in such a match for either players or spectators, a prominent club cannot

afford to figure in an engagement where the result is such a foregone conclusion that the public is not interested, and the gate suffers in consequence.

When more than four hundred of the smaller fry have played five rounds, twenty-four of the exempted clubs enter the lists; in a later round another two dozen rather stronger clubs go into the hat; and when only twelve clubs remain fifty-two more are admitted to begin the competition proper. This last batch consists mainly of the clubs of the First and Second Leagues—the giants are now in the tourney, and the whole of football England is interested in the draw, anxious for their own particular favourites to steer clear of danger for the present, and rejoicing to see other powerful teams drawn together so that some menaces to themselves are bound to disappear.

Although the clubs participating in the qualifying rounds have no national reputations, they have enthusiastic followings in their own districts, where even these minor matches create immense excitement, especially when two rival teams represent towns that are traditional opponents in work or play. The same applies in the competition proper. The drawing together of Sheffield United and Sheffield Wednesday, Notts County and Nottingham Forest, Everton and Liverpool, Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion, or Wolverhampton Wanderers gives rise to

matches that create tremendous local fervour, to say nothing of the widespread interest in the results as affecting the next stage of the tournament.

The League competition practically eliminates chance. Its premier honours are gained only by steady, persistent effort in no less than forty-two matches, and at the finish the result may rest upon such a mathematical nicety as a decimal point in a goal average.

Chance undoubtedly plays a part in a number of directions in the Cup competition, which a team may win by being successful in no more than six matches. A club may get easy opponents, and it may have the advantage of playing a tie on its own enclosure. On the other hand, it may be pitted against an assured conqueror, if public form counts for anything, and the game may have to be played before a crowd almost passionately anxious for the visitors to lose. Even then the glorious uncertainty of the game has to be taken into account, for sometimes an ordinarily mediocre side will rise specially to the occasion and overcome a team that generally would defeat it nine times out of ten. It is an established fact that the really best team of the year rarely wins the Cup, because a burst of vigorous effort and more or less transient brilliance upsets the theory of the survival of the fittest. It is a noteworthy circumstance that only in two seasons have the champions of the League

also been the winners of the English Cup—Preston North End in 1889, and Aston Villa in 1897.

Harking back to the early days of the Cup, it has been mentioned earlier that the Wanderers defeated the Royal Engineers in the first final (1872). The following year they secured the Cup a second time by a victory over Oxford University. In the next year Oxford annexed the Cup at the expense of the Royal Engineers, who had to wait only another season before they snatched the laurels from the Old Etonians.

The Wanderers then gave most convincing proof of their quality by three successive victories in the finals of 1876–77–78, defeating in turn Old Etonians, Oxford, and Royal Engineers. Thus in the first seven years the final was the concern of only four clubs, and the Wanderers won upon five occasions out of seven. In the seven years ending 1924–25 no less than nine teams reached the final once each, Aston Villa three times and Huddersfield twice.

By their Cup victories for three successive years the Wanderers made the English Cup their own property, but they restored it to the Association, and henceforth the trophy could never again be won outright.

The Wanderers died out about 1881, after twenty-two years' pioneer work that had a marked effect on the game. The members were old Public School and University players,

thorough sportsmen, who would cheerfully fall in with whatever rules their opponents preferred before uniformity was brought about. Mr. C. W. Alcock, a hard-charging, hard-shooting centre-forward, played for the Wanderers in their first final, but shortly afterwards an accident debarred him from active participation in the game for which he had striven to such good purpose.

In their three successive Cup Final victories the Wanderers played only seventeen men. Mr. C. H. R. Wollaston appeared in all three matches as well as in the two earlier finals. The Hon. A. F. Kinnaird played in the Wanderers' colours in three finals.

In 1879 the Old Etonians appeared in the final tie for the third time, which paid for all after a Cup-tie apprenticeship of eight years. Clapham Rovers were the defeated upon that occasion, but a year later they achieved their ambition by beating Oxford University. In passing, it may be remarked that although Cambridge were practically responsible for the first set of definite football rules, they never succeeded in winning the Cup. In 1881 the Old Carthusians beat the Old Etonians in a match that brought a notable era in Association football to a close.

For ten years none but southern teams, mainly Metropolitan clubs, had figured in the final ties for the Cup ; Queen's Park were in the semi-final stage in 1872 thanks to receiving byes in the earlier rounds on account of their

distance from London ; and in 1879 Nottingham Forest reached the semi-final stage, which remained the best provincial effort for several years.

The football boom in the provinces was now to make itself felt, and the year 1882 saw the Blackburn Rovers fight their way into the final, thanks largely to three Scottish professionals in the side. Their opponents were the Old Etonians. The Rovers had played thirty-nine matches without experiencing a single defeat, and it seemed highly probable that the southern hold of the Cup would be broken at long last. Five thousand spectators assembled to witness the game, which was a multitude compared to the gathering at the first final. The match was of a ding-dong character, the vigorous attacks by the thrustful northerners being met with corresponding determination by the old schoolboys. The Etonians scored a goal in eight minutes ; and notwithstanding the Rovers in the later stages had much the best of the game, they failed to find the mark. Although the Rovers retired beaten, they still could congratulate themselves on being the runners-up, which was a feat to the credit of no other provincial club.

The Blackburn M.P.'s entertained the Rovers at dinner after the match, which was not nearly the festive gathering it would have been if the Cup had graced the table. The Rovers, however, came from the wrong

county to say die, and it was practically a certainty that they would be heard of again.

A year later (1882–83) the Old Etonians reached the final stage for the sixth time to find themselves faced by the Blackburn Olympic, who had emulated their Rover brethren, and had inspired Lancashire football hearts with high hopes of snatching " t'Coop " out of southern hands. The Olympic was purely a working men's club that had won a number of local successes which justified their entrance for the Cup. In their first season they were ousted early by Sheffield, and a year later received their quietus from Darwen. At their third attempt (1882–83) they went from victory to victory, removing in turn Accrington, Lower Darwen, Darwen Ramblers, Church, and the Druids (a Welsh team). In the five matches they scored 29 goals to 4, which landed them into the semi-final, where they overcame the Old Carthusians by 4 goals to 0.

Luck did not stand the Old Etonians in such good stead as when they met the Rovers, and when the whistle blew the score was one all. Extra time was played, and James Costley, a young player who had been in the Olympic first team only a few weeks, received a long pass and flashed the ball into the net—the winning goal of one of the most famous matches in the stirring history of football.

There were no funereal baked meats at the dinner given by the Blackburn M.P.'s that night ; but even its exuberant festivity paled before the reception the victorious eleven received when they took the Cup to Blackburn. The Olympians paraded the town in a wagonette drawn by six horses with attendant postilions, escorted by half a dozen brass bands and cheered by a multitude of vociferous throats, as the Cup was held aloft like a fetish for popular worship.

When Sir Francis Marindin, President of the Football Association, presented the Cup to S. A. Warburton, the captain of the Olympic, he said he hoped their success would be an encouragement to young clubs. In the event it proved to be the death-knell of the old pioneer clubs so far as further Cup honours were concerned. The Lancashire opinion was that " t'Coop would naar goo back to Lunnon." Never is a long time—in this particular instance it would prove to be eighteen years.

The final tie of 1883 was the last in which a team of the school gentlemen participated. They were bigger and heavier than their working men opponents, but they had not been subjected to a course of scientific training like the Lancashire men. The Olympic had spent the previous week at Blackpool to complete their preparation, and it was their fine physical condition that made all the difference in that extra half hour.

Although he was on the losing side, the most notable man on the field was the Hon. A. F. Kinnaird, who captained the Old Etonians, for whom he was making his sixth appearance in final ties, and he had assisted the Wanderers in three of their great victories. He was on the winning side on five occasions. No player of his own time could equal the Hon. A. F. Kinnaird's claim to English Cup distinction, and nowadays it would be the wildest improbability for a player to boast of such a record.

As the English Cup had gone to Blackburn, the Rovers of that ilk seriously set themselves to the task of keeping it there. The team, attired in blue and white quartered jerseys, made its second appearance at the Oval (1884) after winning six ties in which they scored 26 goals to 1. They now had to meet Queen's Park, who had already won the Scottish Cup in that season. The Rovers' task was equivalent to playing Scotland, for no less than ten of their opponents were Scottish internationals. Twelve thousand spectators witnessed a stern game that ended in favour of the Rovers by 2 goals to 1.

Blackburn gave itself up to another saturnalia when the Rovers returned home with the coveted trophy, and such scenes of wild jubilation have been witnessed in many towns upon similar later occasions. Blackburn had good reason to be proud of its football, for the Olympic had made a brave

show as far as the semi-final stage, when they found a stumbling block in Queen's Park. The Rovers, however, were really the popular side, and as the town could not support two professional teams, the Olympic fell out of the race after a brief and exotic career that will be remembered in football annals for all sporting time.

History repeated itself quickly in that the Rovers and Queen's Park were the finalists in the next year (1885), and the Lancastrians retained their hold of the Cup by 2 goals to 0.

For the third time the Rovers barged their way through all opposition and again reached the final, having to antagonize West Bromwich Albion, a young club that was making a remarkably bold bid for football fame. The fact that they had knocked out Aston Villa in the third round prepared the 15,000 spectators for a rousing game. It ended in a draw of no goals, and it was on the knees of the gods whether the Rovers could equal the Wanderers' feat of securing the Cup for three successive years, until the replay on the following Saturday. This took place at Derby. It was the first time the final was played out of London. Eventually the honours fell to the Rovers by 2 goals to 0. In commemoration of their notable feat the Football Association awarded the Rovers a silver shield, a trophy that will probably remain unique.

A year later (1887) found Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion opposing each other in the final tie. Both teams were not only frantically anxious to win the Cup, but the struggle was intensified by their local rivalries, for whether they met at Aston or West Bromwich a match between them was a football "Derby," as it is to-day after the lapse of forty years. After an exciting game the Villa triumphed by 2 goals to 1, the first of a series that would stamp Aston Villa as Cup fighters of the highest order.

Lo and behold, the irrepressible "Throstles" as the West Bromwich Albion were popularly styled, appeared at the Oval in the following year to meet Preston North End, the club that had reduced combination to a fine art and had effected almost a revolution in the game. The Albion had taken for their club notepaper crest a throstle perched on the cross-bar of a goal; the fervid supporters of the club were in the habit of wearing cards bearing the representation of a throstle; and at the club headquarters there was a splendid thrush in an ornate brass cage. Its song was popularly supposed to augur victory. Upon this occasion it might well have hesitated to vent any melodious prophecy in face of the fact that Preston North End in their last forty-three matches had not suffered a single defeat. In any case, the West Bromwich players were not daunted; they had beaten Preston in the previous year's semi-final,

which they accounted quite a satisfactory portent. They proved to be good judges of their own capabilities, for they defeated North End by 2 goals to 1; they achieved their ambition to win the Cup; and they had set up a record of their own by appearing in the final stage in three successive years.

"Proud Preston," as the North End were dubbed, were too good a side to be denied the honour it sought, and in the season 1888–89 it carried off the National Cup by defeating Wolverhampton Wanderers by 3 goals to 0, and also won the championship of the League without the loss of a single goal in the double event—a truly stupendous football feat.

So upon that particular occasion the best team of the year did really come into its own. The winning of the double honour—Cup and League—has been since emulated only by Aston Villa.

In the years 1890 and 1891 the Cup was won by Blackburn Rovers; they beat Sheffield Wednesday by 6 goals to 1, and Notts County, 3–1. But they were unable to perform the "hat trick" for the second time as they fondly hoped, for the next final saw Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion again contesting with the doggedness that unfailingly marks all their encounters. In their own districts there was intense excitement. On form the Villa should win, but the Albion in their brief but brilliant career

had confounded the sporting prophets badly upon several occasions, and might do it again.

Of course, in Birmingham the Cup was accounted as good as on the Villa club sideboard. On the morning of the match a tobacconist in a prominent Birmingham thoroughfare exhibited in his shop window a dead throstle in token of the fate awaiting the Albion at the Oval that same afternoon. It turned out to be quite a futile prognostication, for the Villa went down by 3 goals to 0, and in the evening the tobacconist removed the dead bird and replaced it with a drawing of a perfectly buccaneer throstle tearing the Cup out of the hands of John Devey, the Villa captain. The scenes in West Bromwich that night beggared description, and it was commonly reported that the club throstle had sung pæans of praise until its beak was red hot.

The Black Country was again represented in the final in 1893 by Wolverhampton Wanderers, the "Wolves" in common parlance, and a very fitting title for most forceful Cup fighters, as their neighbours, Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion could testify. For twenty-one years the final tie had been played in London, but Kennington Oval, having ceased to be available owing to a desire to keep the sward intact for cricket, the venue was Fallowfield, Manchester. Forty thousand spectators attended the

match ; the barriers round the playing pitch were unequal to the strain, and when they broke there was mob rule for a time. In the end order was restored, and the Wolves were victorious by 1 goal to 0.

When the Wolves took the Cup home they were accompanied by Lord Dartmouth and Sir Alfred Hickman, M.P. Fusillades of fog signals and delirious screeches of engine whistles announced the approach of the train, and from the station there was the usual triumphant procession, with Sir Alfred Hickman holding the Cup aloft for scores of thousands to feast their admiring eyes on the bauble.

At a time when it was almost the rule for professional clubs to rely largely upon imported Scots, the Wolves were able to boast that their eleven players were Englishmen, six of whom were born within a few miles of the club headquarters. Five of them were internationals. John Brodie, the skipper and centre-forward, was a schoolmaster, and when he said to his string, " Come on, lads ! " the opposition defence forthwith knew the meaning of the strenuous life. Mr. R. Topham, an Oxonian, was on the staff of a neighbouring grammar school. He was an amateur, a burly but fast outside-right who was capable of putting in terrific shots. Upon one occasion a vigorous drive missed the goal but struck a policeman and laid him flat, a feat that the spectators applauded

probably with more gusto than if Topham had found the net.

English Cup victories have been commemorated in a variety of ways. Sir Alfred Hickman presented each of the Wolves with a small silver replica of the historic trophy they had won, which naturally would be viewed as heirlooms in as many different families. A local builder, however, marked the event in a manner strikingly his own. He erected an avenue of dwelling houses, called "Wanderers' Avenue"; and eleven of the dwellings had name stones in which were cut the names of the players thus: "Brodie Villa," "Topham Villa," &c.

For ten years the Cup had now gone either to Lancashire or the Birmingham district. Other Midland clubs then insisted upon coming into the picture, and during the next six years the trophy went to Nottingham twice (Notts County and the Forest), to Sheffield twice (United and Wednesday), and twice the prize went to Aston Villa (1895 and 1897). The runners-up were Bolton Wanderers, West Bromwich Albion, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Everton, and Derby County (twice). So that out of the twelve clubs in the final stages, 1894—99, only two of them belonged to Lancashire.

The victory of Notts County over Bolton Wanderers (1894) was illustrative of the uncertainties of the game. In 1892–93 Notts fell out of the First League, and

although in the next season they were unable to fight their way back to be numbered with the League elect, they contrived to force their way into the Cup Final to win the blue riband of the season.

The outstanding incident in this period of six years occurred in the year 1895. The Cup-ties of the season 1895–96 were in full swing when suddenly there was no trophy to play for. It had been in the keeping of Aston Villa, who lent it to a local football outfitter to add lustre to his well-dressed window, and innumerable citizens could gloat over the historic pot whose sentimental memories counted far more than its intrinsic worth. Unfortunately, the Cup attracted the attention of an enterprising burglar. Whether he was really a football fanatic who stole the bauble in order to worship it in private, or whether he was an iconoclastic Bill Sikes who melted the cup down, was never made clear. The point that mattered was that the Cup was never seen again. It was proposed to replace it with a more ornate and valuable trophy more in keeping with the ever-growing importance of the competition, but a replica of the lost Cup was obtained as being more in accord with the sporting origin of the old one.

The last year of the century saw another Lancashire club in the final stage, Bury making its first appearance in the classic event. It proved to be an exceptionally

interesting final because there was a southern representative in the arena again, with the avowed intention of breaking the Northern and Midland monopoly. Arising Phœnix-like from the seventeen-year-old ashes, Southampton defeated Everton, Newcastle United, and West Bromwich Albion in turn, so that to cross swords, or rather feet, with Bury did not appear to be an insuperable task.

Bury, however, were not nicknamed " Shakers " for nothing, and in this particular match they fully justified their cognomen. They simply trampled on southern aspirations. That " t'Coop " had not seen Lancashire for eight years weighed with Bury far more than its absence from the south for twice as long. They scored what proved to be the winning goal, and, regardless of Southampton's susceptibilities, added three unnecessary goals as a kind of scoffing makeweight.

Nevertheless, Southampton had made more than a notable gesture, and the obscuration of the south was certainly less pronounced, although it was still doubtful when the eclipse would be lifted.

Southampton's form in disposing of three famous First League teams, and especially the Cup-fighting " Throstles," was due to the adoption of professionalism seven years earlier, about which time the Arsenal also crossed the border line. The establishment of the Southern League had worked an enormous change in the southern clubs, for

by the end of the fifth season the amateur element had entirely disappeared from the Southern League first division. The result was that two clubs like Tottenham Hotspur and the Arsenal in 1903–04 were each in receipt of incomes round about £10,000; Tottenham had an annual wage list of about £5,000, and the Arsenal not much less. Frequently both of these clubs drew gates of 30,000, numbers hitherto unprecedented with London clubs. The gates of the Cup Finals were no real criterion of London's interest in football, as they were always swollen by thousands of excursionists from the provincial football centres; and many Londoners who attended the classic events saw no other match in the course of a season.

The booms that the game had witnessed in the provinces were now being repeated in London, where the vast population opened up enormous possibilities in the way of football crowds.

Southampton having made their gallant effort, the very next year saw Tottenham Hotspur at the Crystal Palace to dispute the right of Sheffield United to carry off the Cup a second time in their history.

With a London team in the final the sporting Londoner viewed the great day through quite a different pair of spectacles. For years Cup Day was the signal for hordes of football enthusiasts to descend upon London making for the Crystal Palace, which had become

the Mecca of the leather-chasing devotee. At each London terminus from the north in the small hours of the morning excursion trains began to dump down thousands of travellers, who made the stations echo with strange dialects that left sleepy porters no room for doubt that "t'Coop Day" had come round again. By 9 o'clock the prospective Palace crowd was largely in evidence in Holborn, Piccadilly, the Strand, and Ludgate Hill. The Londoner hurrying to business smiled at the groups of becapped and neckerchiefed men, many of whom denoted their origin by wearing rosettes, the colours of the competing teams, flaunting cards in their caps exhorting their favourites to play up, while some misguided enthusiasts sported paste-coloured toppers, or even whole suits of partisan motley.

When these football pilgrims belonged to two alien provincial clubs merely meeting on London's neutral ground, the Londoner mildly or cynically wondered to what excesses the worship of the goal-getter would yet go. Now the football aspect had undergone a radical change. One of the contestants was a London team; the match at the Palace was a London concern; and London showed its change of football heart by rolling up to the turnstiles to swell the gate into no less than 110,800 persons, which easily provided a record football attendance; while the gate, amounting to £3,998, exceeded the previous

best final by £1,250. The record receipts for any football match was then £4,387 at the international match, England *v.* Scotland, at Glasgow in 1900, but the spectators numbered only 60,000.

Even before the match actually commenced Tottenham could pride themselves that never in the history of football had a match attracted such a concourse, and, rising splendidly to the occasion, they put up a capital fight against the "men frae Sheffield," with the result that the game ended in a draw of two goals each.

Never had football been such an absorbing topic in the Metropolis as during the week that elapsed before the replay at Bolton. When the news flashed home that Tottenham had routed the Blades by 3 goals to 1, the enthusiasm of the Southern multitudes broke all bounds. The scene at Tottenham that night and until the Sabbath dawned was no whit behind any of the delirious jubilations that were better known in some provincial hotbeds of football. When the train arrived with the victorious team at 1 a.m. they were welcomed with a salvo of fog-signals, while myriads of rockets shot up into the sky to shed their kaleidoscopic beauties in showers of sacrificial fire. The High Street was filled with a mass of mafficking enthusiasts through which half a dozen brass bands laboriously played their way. It was indeed a great day when the prodigal Cup returned home. How

long it would remain there it was impossible even to guess. With London teams generally levelling up with their provincial rivals, and consequently making bold bids for inclusion in the First League, it seemed to be a foregone conclusion that with an immense population at their backs, synonymous with money, London clubs would no longer be content to play second fiddle to the provinces in either League or Cup matters.

It was Sheffield United who allowed the Cup to come south by failing to beat Tottenham, and the Blades thought it only in accordance with the fitness of things that they should repair their error. So the end of the next season found Sheffield United again in the final to contest against Southampton, who sought to emulate Tottenham, and did it to the extent of playing a drawn game. In the replay, however, Southampton lost by 2 goals to 1.

Apart from Tottenham's brilliant feat, it was a new experience for the south to be interested in the final tie in three successive years, and there did appear to be reason for the optimistic belief that in future the Cup would be shared by the north and south in something like reasonable proportion. There is, however, nothing reasonable about the vagaries of football fortune, and as a matter of fact thirteen years elapsed before a southern team again reached the final stage.

In 1903 Derby County reached the final for

A Remarkable View from the Air of The Cup Final at Wembley Stadium
Showing the Match in Progress.

the third time, only to find the " Shakers " bent upon agitating them to the fullest extent. Derby were beaten by 6 to 0, the worst defeat ever experienced by a team in the final, although Sheffield Wednesday were in nearly as bad case when Blackburn Rovers beat them by 6 to 1 in 1890.

Manchester City reached the final for the first time in 1904 to meet Bolton Wanderers, who were the runners-up ten years earlier, and they proved to be runners-up on this occasion.

It was rather surprising that the English Cup had never yet found a home in the far north, where the football boom nearly twenty years earlier had resulted in a number of new professional clubs, of whom the outstanding examples were Sunderland and Newcastle United, founded in 1886 and 1893 respectively. Sunderland, with a team mostly of Scots, was known as the " team of all the talents." In the first seven years of the League they topped the table three times, and in addition were well in the running in other seasons. Newcastle United, with another band largely of Scots, had also established a great reputation. Yet, notwithstanding the calibre of their players, neither Sunderland nor Newcastle had been able to reach the Cup Final, which was aggravating to the two clubs concerned, but quite in keeping with the amazing uncertainties of the competition.

The season 1904–05 appeared to be

Newcastle United's touchstone, for the championship of the League was theirs, and they were running strongly for the Cup, and Novocastrian hearts beat high in anticipation of the double honour that was in the offing.

It is astonishing what a mediocre game the final tie sometimes proves to be considering it is the concentrated essence of all the earlier matches in the season's competition. In many cases players suffer from over-anxiety ; they are too fearful of making a mistake to exhibit their true form, and consequently the game is sometimes not worthy of the great occasion. This season's final, however, would be a battle of the giants, for Newcastle's opponents were Aston Villa, veterans in the competition, with traditions behind them such as Newcastle did not possess. The Villa had won the Cup three times before Newcastle United was born into the stressful world of football.

The progress of the two teams very well exemplified the luck of the draw. In the first three rounds Aston Villa were at home to Leicester Fosse, Bury, and Fulham, and disposed of each at the first time of asking. Newcastle had to play away from home in each of the corresponding rounds, visiting Plymouth, Tottenham, and Bolton ; it took three matches to oust Plymouth Argyle, and two to get clear of Tottenham. The Villa reached the semi-final stage by three matches to Newcastle's six. The Villa victories did

not entail travelling a mile, whereas Newcastle's journeys, out and home, aggregated over 2,000 miles. The semi-finals—Aston Villa *v.* Everton, and Newcastle *v.* Sheffield Wednesday caused more than usual stir, significant of still increasing popular interest. No less than eighty excursion trains were run to Stoke. The match ended in a draw, but the Villa won the replay. Newcastle accounted for the Wednesday by 1 goal to 0. The three matches were attended by 99,000 spectators, who paid £4,737 for admission, so that even the losers' disappointment had a very tangible silver lining.

Once more it was proved that the Cup Final is the very apotheosis of football, for the spectators numbered more than 101,000, with the turnstiles registering £5,055. The crowd was seven times larger than the gathering of ten years earlier. The 100,000 mark was topped, too, without the match possessing the additional attraction of a London team competing, which had accounted for the phenomenal gate of 1901.

When the whistle blew to settle the hopes and fears, the theories and prognostications of another exciting season, the Villans were triumphant by 2 goals to 0. Time was when the Cup was handed to the winning captain after the match by the President of the Association. Nowadays the duty was usually undertaken by some prominent public personage—Lord Rosebery and General Buller had

performed the little ceremony. This year the Cup was presented to Howard Spencer, the Villa captain, by Mrs. Kinnaird, daughter of Lord Kinnaird, whose name was reminiscent of finals when they were very insignificant affairs compared to this present end of a tourney, whose forty-four matches of the competition proper had been witnessed by more than a million spectators, who paid £42,000 into the coffers of the competing clubs. Verily, the struggle for the Cup had come to rest upon a very solid foundation of the sixpences and shillings of the multitude.

Very brief references will cover the next six years. Everton, making their third appearance in final stages (1906), scored a win at the expense of Newcastle United by 1 goal to 0, which doubtless still more impressed the losers with the difference between League football and the tactics that won the Cup. Everton were at the Palace again at the end of the next season (1907), but they failed to beat Sheffield Wednesday, who carried off the Cup for the second time to place them on an equality with their town brethren, the United.

In 1908 Newcastle United, in convincing proof of their consistent capabilities, reached the final for the third time. They were again champions of the League, but their opponents, Wolverhampton Wanderers, had fallen on evil days and were now in the Second Division, and not its champions either. It seemed as

if this particular final came under the category of a "dead cert," for all possible auguries pointed to a victory for Newcastle. There was an immense surprise in store for the quidnuncs, for, true to their ravening reputation, the Wolves ignored their lowly position in the League world and had the temerity to score three goals against Newcastle, who could reply with only a single point.

In 1909 the final stage was fought out by Manchester United and Bristol City, both making their first bows at the Palace, and the Cup went to Manchester.

The next year (1910) the pertinacious Newcastle United bobbed up again in the final, determined to capture that will-o'-the-wisp football prize that had so persistently eluded the far northern grasp. Barnsley, who were their opponents, fought gallantly, the game ending one all; but in the replay at Everton, Newcastle achieved their ambition by 2 goals to 0, and Tyneside duly went football mad in celebration of the long-delayed victory.

A season later (1911) Newcastle United barged their way through all opposition, and again reached the final for the fifth time in only the brief period of seven years. They met Bradford City, a club that dated back no farther than 1890, but in proof that "money makes the mare to go," Bradford had eleven talented players who joined Newcastle in a

ding-dong struggle that ended in a draw of no goals; in the replay at Old Trafford Bradford triumphed by 1 goal to 0.

Barnsley were the next winners of the Cup (1912), first drawing with West Bromwich Albion 0–0, and then beating them at Sheffield 1–0.

The final tie of 1912–13 was a memorable one, for Sunderland made its first appearance in the classic event, it being almost a football mystery how the honour had come to be so long delayed. They had just won the championship of the League for the fifth time. Their opponents were Aston Villa, who had been League champions six times, and were then making their sixth appearance in final ties. There was a great difference in the composition of the teams, for while Sunderland were mainly Scots, the Villa were correspondingly English. They both played a close passing game, and their League engagements were generally brimful of excitement from start to finish. The meeting of the couple on the Sydenham sward was a feast of football, in which Aston Villa scored the only goal, which raised their Cup victories to five, the same number as stood to the credit of the old pioneer Wanderers and the Blackburn Rovers.

The spectators numbered 121,920, a record attendance at any football match in England; the receipts amounted to £6,134. Such a gathering had been exceeded only once,

namely at the international between England and Scotland at Hampden Park, Glasgow, in March, 1912, when the turnstiles registered 127,307, with receipts nearly £7,000. The official figures of the Villa and Sunderland match were rather deceptive since they were the total admissions to the Palace irrespective of the match. Owing to the ground not being banked up, a large proportion of the crowd would be unable to see any of the players, and only the ball when it was skied.

Aston Villa were hot favourites for the Cup in 1913–14, but eventually the final tie resolved itself into a Lancashire affair between Burnley and Liverpool, the former winning by 1 to 0. The match was witnessed by His Majesty the King, who presented the Cup and medals to the victors.

Only four months later the Cup competition was suddenly thrown into the melting pot by the outbreak of the Great War. Waterloo was said to have been won on the playing fields of England. It was well for us that in the intervening century, and especially during the last two decades, the young manhood of the nation had engaged more and more in games. It must be borne in mind that immense as are the activities of the great football clubs, valuable as they are in providing sporting spectacles that offer relaxation for ever-growing crowds, there are in addition many thousands of football clubs whose members are vastly interested in their

own comparatively insignificant games in which the only guerdon is the health and strength and enjoyment the pastime unfailingly affords. In this new season it was not the whistle of the referee calling players to line up that would catch the ears of the football youth of the land, but the clarion call of Lord Kitchener asking for the first of the several millions of men who were wanted to fight for King and Country. The Cup competition of 1914–15 was played in a subdued atmosphere, and the final, at Old Trafford, Manchester, saw Sheffield United beat Chelsea by 3–0.

The next four seasons saw no Cup competition, and although the professional clubs carried on with their league programmes, the public interest in the results was swamped by sterner considerations.

During the four years of the War there was a great deal of football played wherever the Army had a camp or a training ground, or wherever a ship in the Navy sent its men ashore. The schools played, of course, but even their games were not as good as they used to be, for the time formerly given to practice was now largely spent in O.T.C. work. When the Americans entered into the War, and large numbers of them were training in England, they took to Association football, in which they showed remarkable quickness and adaptability.

Football was played by the troops on active service wherever it was possible to fix

up a game behind the lines; and it is on record that our soldiers stationed at Samara, in Mesopotamia, played a match in a temperature of 122°.

The end of the War found a sadly changed England that had been bereft of hundreds of thousands of young men, among whom were a number of prominent footballers whose skill the public had delighted to watch, and we were left with a multitude of others too maimed ever again to engage in field sports.

King Football resumed sway of his kingdom on August 30th, 1919, and in proof that the public had pined for its favourite winter game the thirty-three big League matches played on that auspicious day were attended by nearly half a million spectators. The football season was now extended so as to include the last week in August and the first week in May; and London football received a fillip by the three chief leagues being each increased to twenty-two clubs instead of twenty, which let Chelsea and the Arsenal into the First Division, and West Ham United into the Second.

The Cup competition resumed its intriguing progress, and eventually resulted in Aston Villa reaching the final stage for the seventh time to face Huddersfield Town, that came into existence only two seasons before the War. It was a great feat for a club in its third effective season to make so bold a bid

for the highest football honours. As the Crystal Palace was no longer available, the match was played at Chelsea, and at the expiration of time neither side had scored. Extra time was played and the Villa scored a goal that not only won the match, but they created a record by winning the Cup six times, thus excelling the old Wanderers and the Blackburn Rovers, who scored their fifth win as far back as 1891, at which time Aston Villa had won the trophy only once. In reality the Villa victories were more meritorious in that they were achieved over a longer period and were gained over northern clubs who had brought the game to a higher pitch of excellence.

Association football was experiencing another boom. In all the great football centres record crowds assembled, especially in London, where the fervour was very pronounced, notwithstanding that Tottenham, Chelsea, and the Arsenal were not doing overwhelmingly well in the League. This weakness was put down to injuries or general ill luck, but in reality the London clubs had yet something to learn in club management, in which art they were behind some of the great provincial clubs.

The next season's entries for the Cup totalled 522, nearly thirty more than had ever entered before ; and when they were whittled down to two, after rounds supplying many thrills and not a few surprises, they disclosed

themselves as Tottenham Hotspur and Wolverhampton Wanderers. Nothing could have suited the London football mood better. A crowd of 72,805 was packed into the Chelsea ground, and the receipts—£13,414—easily cut all previous money records. Tottenham beat the Wolves by 1 goal to 0, and the London football world was accounted as going very well. Once more the Cup was in its original home, only for the second time in nearl · forty years, but on the principle that absence makes the heart grow fonder, the fervour of its welcome was all the more unmistakable.

This notable year that Tottenham had just brought to a glowing conclusion well illustrated what a boom in football means where there is an immense population to draw from. The club's total receipts for the year amounted to £81,000, and Chelsea, without special Cup attractions, had an income of £85,000.

The Cup competition, in proof of the continued boom, was proving to be a veritable football octopus, thrusting out its tentacles into territories hitherto unrepresented, with the result that the next season's entries (1921–22) showed an increase of no less than 135 over the previous year. The couple to reach the final were Huddersfield Town and Preston North End. Since their previous appearance in the final stage two years earlier, Huddersfield had made desperate efforts to obtain a team—regardless of

expense. They bought Clem Stephenson from Aston Villa for £4,000, and they paid Nelson £1,600 for S. J. Wadsworth. Huddersfield could command big gates, they required big men, and were prepared to pay big prices for them. Whatever may be one's views of the principle involved, the result was satisfactory from the Huddersfield point of view, for they beat North End by 1 to 0, and carried off the Cup after serving a shorter apprenticeship to the quest than any other club that had won it. It took Sunderland, " the team of all the talents," twenty-seven years to accomplish the feat.

With the Crystal Palace still remaining unavailable, it was impossible to find a ground large enough to accommodate the swelling crowds attracted by the Cup Final. When Tottenham Hotspur reached the concluding stage for the first time the spectators at the Crystal Palace numbered 110,000 ; but after the lapse of seventeen years during which the football devotees of London had increased enormously, there were only 72,000 when Tottenham were in the final tie at Chelsea. The ground was filled to its utmost capacity, and the gates were closed upon thousands who were anxious to enter, while many thousands had stayed away because of the limited accommodation.

For the season 1922–23 the Stadium at the British Empire Exhibition was fixed as the venue of the final tie. This new arena

was planned to accommodate 124,000 persons, everyone of whom would be able to watch every move in the match in complete comfort.

The finalists proved to be Bolton Wanderers and West Ham United. It was fitting that a London club should be in the final tie that was signalizing the opening of London's great new arena. Bolton sent huge crowds of its own to London ; from all the great provincial centres there were packed excursion trains ; West Ham's own supporters could get to Wembley with comparative ease, as could the habitués of other London football grounds ; and doubtless thousands went to the match partly out of curiosity to see how the Exhibition itself was shaping.

In any case, there were sufficient prospective spectators to fill two Stadiums. There came a time when the entrances to the grounds had to be closed, while still the trains continued to dump down more and more thousands. As only might be expected in the circumstances, mob law took a hand in the game. Barriers were stormed, and thousands of people entered the grounds without paying, but they were still outside the Stadium, and had to remain there.

Inside the Stadium there were no less than 126,047 spectators, and there was room for them if the available space had been dealt with properly. If the Football Association had been in charge of the arrangements, with

their knowledge and experience of football crowds, they would have coped with the unexpected influx. But the organization of the Exhibition anthorities broke down, with the result that the crowd in the unreserved portions of the ground invaded the playing pitch, and for a considerable time there was a prospect of there being no match at all. Eventually, with the aid of a small army of stewards and a number of mounted police, something like order was obtained and the match was played, but under entirely abnormal conditions that made it anybody's game. Bolton Wanderers, old stagers in exciting Cup-ties, were probably less affected by the unusual conditions. Sufficient for them that they won by 2 goals to 0, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of West Ham to keep the thrustful Lancastrians at bay.

The railway companies supplied figures showing that they had carried 241,000 passengers from London stations alone to Wembley ; many thousands went by tram and 'bus and motor vehicles of all descriptions, and there were other thousands within walking distance of the Stadium. If all could have seen the match who desired it, the gate would have proved a record for all time. The gate money amounted to the unprecedented sum of £27,776.

The match vividly called to the writer's mind an English cup-tie between Aston Villa

and Preston North End in the one year they won the Cup (1889). The match was played on the Villa's old ground at Perry Barr. The spectators numbered 30,000, a record attendance at that time, and the barriers round the ground—only posts and rails—proved to be unequal to the occasion. To keep the crowd from encroaching on the playing space a few military spectators were induced to mount hastily unharnessed cart horses, by no means up to War Office standard, to patrol the touch-line. Sober-minded Birmingham citizens were much perturbed when the evening newspaper placards announced in specially large type: "Exciting Football Scenes: The Military Called Out."

It afterwards transpired that the captains of Aston Villa and Preston North End had come to some ill-defined agreement to consider the match a friendly. In the end Preston won, and when the Villa protested on account of the unfair conditions, they were informed by the Football Association that they were responsible for providing a fitting arena and must put up with the consequences. At Wembley there was no one who could be penalized, but it was significant that the Football Association speedily announced that the arrangements for the next year's final tie would be undertaken by itself.

The second English Cup Final at Wembley (1925) promised to be one of those ideal contests dear to the lover of football, for

Aston Villa and Newcastle United were the protagonists. Fourteen years had passed since they found themselves similarly opposed, and they were still great magnets to the football public.

The Football Association had taken every precaution against another fiasco. They made it a ticket match, even for the standing portions of the ground. Consequently every person with a ticket knew there was a place for him, and those who had no tickets knew it was useless to journey to Wembley to see the match. The spectators numbered 91,965, and everyone saw the match in comfort ; the receipts amounted to £14,180.

Aston Villa's reputation as Cup fighters and Cup winners is unrivalled ; they had made seven appearances in the final, and had won upon six occasions. This, the eighth appearance they were making, was in their jubilee year, to which another great Cup victory would give additional *éclat.*

Newcastle had previously made their bow in five finals, but had contrived to win only once. It said much for their consistently good play that they should have reached the final five times in the short space of seven years, which is a record in tenaciousness of which any club might well be proud. Upon this sixth occasion fortune smiled on Newcastle, who won by 2 goals to 0, and even the supporters of Aston Villa had to admit that on the play the better side had won, which

cannot always be said of all games, and especially Cup-ties.

The final of the season 1924-25 differed from any of its predecessors in that Wales for the first time had high hopes of carrying off the trophy. Cardiff City beat in turn Darlington, Fulham, Notts County, Leicester City, and Blackburn Rovers, aggregating 10 goals to 2 in the five matches. It was their portion to meet in the final Sheffield United, who had disposed of the Corinthians, Wednesday, Everton, West Bromwich Albion, and Southampton by 13 goals to 2.

On their League form there was little to choose between the United and Cardiff, Sheffield having won one game by 1 goal to 0, while the return match ended in a draw of 1 goal each. On the other hand, the Sheffielders had figured in the final on four previous occasions and had carried off the Cup three times, whereas Cardiff were making their first bow in the most critical game of the season.

Nevertheless, Cardiff could be trusted to put up a great fight for the Principality, and South Wales in particular sent thousands to London to cheer on their men with all the national fervour of which they were capable ; but in the event the Blades scored the only goal in the game, and once more the Cup went to Sheffield.

The contest for the Cup in the season 1925–26 provided many tasty dishes for the

hungry football public. Of the eight clubs that survived the fifth round three belonged to the Metropolis (Arsenal, Fulham, and Clapton Orient). The Arsenal had ousted Aston Villa and Blackburn Rovers ; Fulham had proved too much for Everton and Liverpool ; and the Orient had overcome Newcastle United and Middlesbrough. As the Arsenal were running second for the League championship there was nothing phenomenal, however meritorious, about their Cup-tie victories ; but Fulham and the Orient were both struggling for points dangerously near the bottom of the Second Division League table.

In the sixth round, however, London's rosy hopes of being directly interested in the semi-final were shattered, for the Arsenal, Fulham, and Orient went down before Swansea, Manchester United, and Manchester City respectively, while Bolton Wanderers triumphed over Notts Forest.

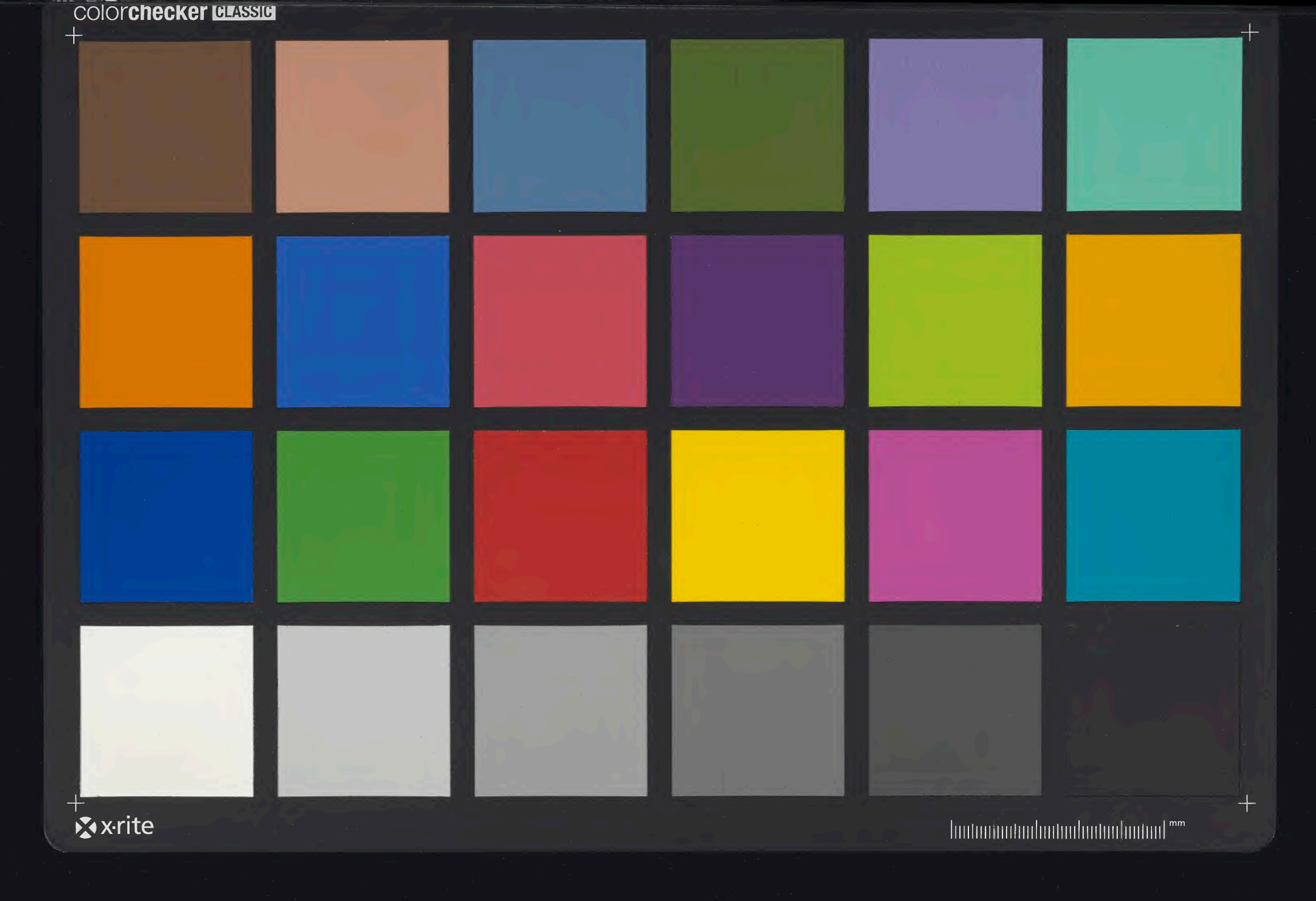
It was a distinction for Lancashire that it could claim three of the winning teams ; Manchester could take pride in the fact that its two clubs had reached semi-final honours ; and, of course, there was the possibility that it would prove to be a Lancashire final, or even a Manchester one. The luck of the draw dissipated the last-named hope, for the two Manchester teams were drawn against each other, while Bolton Wanderers were pitted against Swansea, the hope of Wales.

The two teams to qualify for the final were Bolton Wanderers and Manchester City. They had similarly opposed each other twenty-two years earlier, when the City won the Cup by 1 goal to 0, a goal whose legitimacy was much questioned at the time.

For the third time the Stadium at Wembley was the venue of the final, which was witnessed by His Majesty the King and more then 91,000 spectators, who paid £15,000 for the privilege. The match was of a very close character, which made an impartial spectator regret that one side had to lose. The players did not appear to be specially troubled by nerves, with the result that the game was a more than ordinarily good one. It was not until twelve minutes from time that the match was lost and won. Butler, the Bolton outside-right, dribbled almost to the corner flag, from which he centred right across the goal-mouth. Vizard collected it and placed the ball at the feet of Jack, the unmarked inside-right, who banged it into the net. It must have been particularly gratifying to Jack, for early in the game he had the goal absolutely at his mercy, but slipped at the critical moment. He was fortunate in being able to atone for an almost inexplicable miss. Although Manchester City made desperate efforts to get on even terms, the Wanderers held them at bay until the whistle blew.

At the conclusion of the match Joe Smith, the captain of the Wanderers, received the

Cup at the hands of the King, an honour that had fallen to the same player only three years earlier. Then followed a demonstration of enthusiasm and affection for the King that was most heart-filling. His arrival had been acclaimed with wonderful fervour, but when he had presented the Cup and medals to the players the National Anthem was sung by the enormous gathering in a breath-catching and impressive manner that made the occasion for ever memorable.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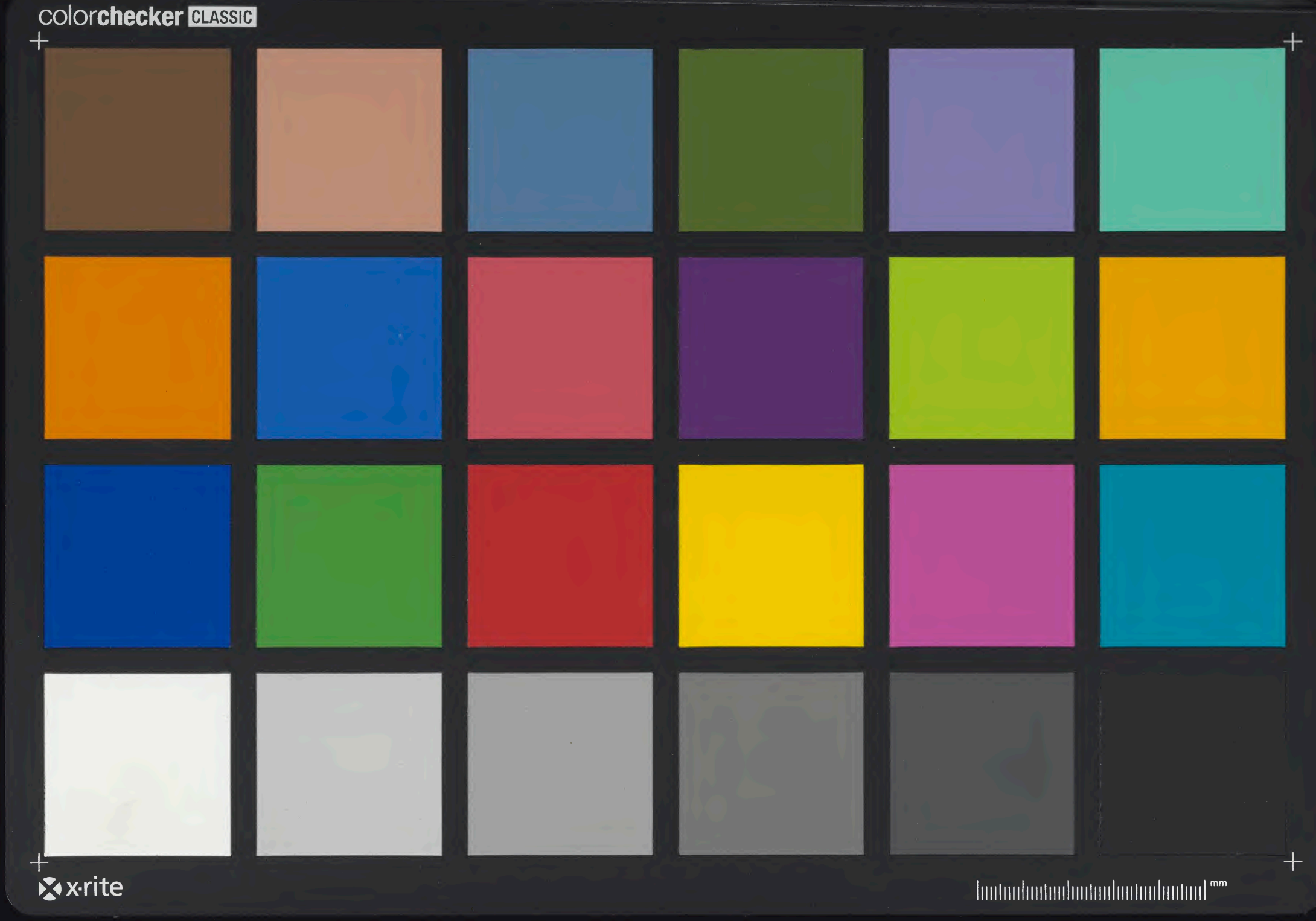
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