SATURDAY'S RUGBY.

AFTER FOURTEEN YEARS.

Bristol's Great Win at Newport.

Unquestionably the best performance in the Rugby world on Saturday was Bristol's win at Newport. The Uskside ground has been a trap for every club, and few have gained victory there. Bristol were expected to go down, as usual. There was practically a full list of matches, and only a few games were abandoned because of the condition of the grounds. Bath's defeat at Llanelly, heavy though it was, was not unexpected, for they took an extremely weak side away. Gloucester won at home against the Old Blues. London clubs generally had a good day. The Harlequins beat the Army in a heavy scoring game, and Richmond got the better of Leicester. Ruckheath, however, lost to Oxford University. Both Hospital sides won. St. Bart.'s scored one point more than Plymouth Albion, but Guy's overwhelmed the Old Alleynians. Rosslyn Park had fewer than 42 points. Rosslyn Park and the Merchant Taylors had a close game. Lyons, the French side now touring England, was at Southampton. Swansea had a home to Neath, but Cardiff carried the day at Pontymouth against the Services. Pontypool and Aberavon were both victorious.

Irish XV. for England.

The following team has been selected to play for Ireland against England at Twickenham on Saturday, February 12:—W. E. Crawford (Lansdowne); J. H. Gage (Queen's University), G. V. Stephenson (North of Ireland), F. S. Hewitt (Instonians), D. J. Cason (St. Mary's Hospital, London); M. Sugden (Wanderers) and E. Davy (Lansdowne); M. J. Bradley (Dolphin), W. F. Browne (Army), J. M. Cagney (London Irish), J. D. Clinch (Wanderers), J. Farrell (Bective Rangers), C. F. Hanrahan (Dolphin), J. McVicker (Collegians), and C. T. Payne (North of Ireland).

J. B. Gaulty, M. Atkinson, P. Murray, and H. Rosser have intended in the Ireland XV. that met France in Paris on New Year's Day, have been dropped in favour of Gage, Hewitt, Sugden and Hanrahan. It was not expected that Clinch, an officer in the Middlesex Regiment, could play, but an intimation to the contrary has been received by the Irish authorities. Every member of the XV. has been previously "capped."

Bristol's Best Performance.

Bristol accomplished what must be regarded as their best performance of the season in winning at Newport. There was not much in it—the score was a goal and a try (8 points) to 2 tries (6 points) in their favour—but the difference in the play represented the run of the play. It was freely admitted that the winners were not flattered by the result. Bristol have never beaten Newport since the season. In recent years the contests between the two clubs have been close and exciting, and Bristol, in the last ten minutes or so of the games Newport have always been able to finish with considerable superiority over the Bristol. Because of that they were able on each occasion to gain the victory. On Saturday, however, the tables were turned, the visiting side finished with great power and were attacking with a vigour which even the Newport defence failed to withstand. It was all Bristol in the last ten minutes, but the goal which gave them the victory was delayed until the last moment, and it was a dramatic climax to a game which provided very exciting and full of good play. Both sides gave a most satisfactory exhibition under conditions which militated against all those factors which make Rugby such an attractive game. The surface was very heavy—there were large patches of water in front of the stand—and it up-hill and downhill, very heavy and the ball very greasy. Yet the backs indulged in open play which necessitated the highest skill, while the forwards developed rushes which placed the hearts of the most nervous in their mouths. The combination, naturally, made the forwards dominant factor, but the skill and speed of the backs was just as important. This was Bristol's second win on the Newport ground. The first was in 1913, when they won by 22 points to 17 points, so that 14 years elapsed before the second success was obtained. The previous victory was a remarkable one, for the Bristol side was an unknown quantity, substantiated as it did many youngsters almost entirely new to big Rugby, whereas the Newport side was a strong and virile combination which had just beaten Swansea in internationals. R. C. W. Pickles was the only one who took part in that game who played on Saturday, so the performance must give him special satisfaction.

The Man of the Moment.

There appeared to be some doubt as to the fitness of the ground, but before the start L. J. Corbett and Harold Davis, the two captains, made a tour of inspection and pronounced the conditions good enough. Bristol, with the presence of England's captain lent a strong attraction to the match, but owing to the prevalence of influenza in the town and the uncertainty of the weather the attendance was much below expectations, although Bristol followers were there in good numbers. Bristol were unfortunate that Sam Tucker was not fit to play—he took the line—but Newport were also forced to make changes as Anderson, their outside international, wing three-quarter, was on the sick list, Evergon, full back, suffering from injuries received in a motor accident on Thursday, and Phillips and Jones absent from the forwards. Corbett's generalship and judgment were once again in evidence. In every way he was the man most conspicuous. The Newport players were obviously eager to give him all the assistance as possible, but he was able, through his cleverness and speed, to overcome most of their obstacles. Mr. Richard Davis, his partner who played up to him splendidly. Indeed, the young centre was one of the outstanding players on the field. He scored Bristol the lead in the first half because he was able, like Corbett, to see a chance, a chance which was not seen by others in him then, but his second try, which Hore converted, was much better. He shot between the players and was under the posts like a flash.

A Shaky Start Retrieved.

The Newport team played just that dashing type of football one always associates with them. They proved a strong, well-balanced side, capable of adapting their play to prevailing conditions, and they also showed resourcefulness in a manner which was a tribute to their ability. Bristol were in no wise behind them in that respect, but starting shakily were unable for some time to settle down to a balance which enabled them to hold their opponents. The sweeping attacks of the Newport pack—they came tearing down the field time after time in a compact mass with at the ball at their feet—developed attacks which allowed their backs opportunities of operating so well as to keep the defence continually on the qui vive. These tactics called for the highest degree of defensive work, and that was given. The game was quite 20 minutes old before Bristol showed anything like their usual form. They had gained the lead in one fine attack—the only serious incursion they had up to that time made into the Newport half—but from th. s onwards they were every bit as good as Newport, except for the two lapses which occurred in the second half, when the home side scored twice.

Newport Outplayed.

It was the last ten minutes which told the tale. It became a question of whether Bristol could hold. It must have come as a surprise to many to see the determined manner in which they set about retaining their position. They were better than Newport had been in the opening stages. A more desperate series of attacks the Bristol rushed had not be subjected to. They were pushed back to their own line repeatedly. Try as they would, they could not get relief, and it was tribute to them that they held out so long. Forwards were back amongst the threequarters defending with desperate energy. The whole of the Newport fifteen were made to run hither and thither to frustrate the thrusting manœuvres of their opponents, but the inevitable was bound to come, delayed though it was. Newport broke through after a long period. They were implacable in their assaults, and if only because of that their success was well merited. Every man did his best, and a fine contest was concluded with as stirring a struggle as could be desired. Bristol did not pack too well in the scrimmages, but their general play was worthy of their reputation. Good use of the ball, the pick and bolt tactics proved very successful methods for gaining ground. Like Newport they instituted attacks through forwards with quick following up, the promptness of which manifested their powers as well as those of their opponents. Whilst Newport twice missed a looker-on who nothing serious to grumble at with the work accomplished.

Splendid Defences.

With the Welsh backs getting more of the ball they find greater opportunities than the Bristol outsides, but the latter were just as good in their movements. Griffiths and Harold Davies were the best of the Newport backs. The former was responsible for both the tries his side obtained, for he cut out brilliant openings for the wings by regaining his true standard with each match. He was cool and dependable, whilst his kicking was of great length. Hodges, who came in for Evergon did not play his side down, took risks which were hardly justified against his fleet opponents when under pressure. Davies's defence was more commendable than that of Newport, but both were splendid. How they repulsed some of the attacks was remarkable. Playing with the wind behind them, Bristol took the lead through Burland after 13 minutes' play and held it until the minutes after the change of ends, when Lewis equalised, the former from the end Scott scored, but Burland got in a which Hore converted. By mutual consent only 30 minutes instead of 35 minutes were played each way.

The teams were:—

Newport.—A. E. Hodges; Harold Davies, G. Scott, A. R. Stock, G. J. Goldsworthy; V. M. Griffiths ♥. J. Jerman; J. Hughes, T. J. Herrera, W. Powell, W. Morgan, D. Roberts, R. Hathway, J. Collins, and W. H. Lewis.

Bristol.—R. C. W. Pickles; R. G. B. Quick, L. J. Corbett, D. W. Burland, J. E. Simpkiscombe; J. Cooke, J. V. Lucas; M. Y. Shaw, W. H. Hale, E. Sullivan, A. H. Hore, P. S. Lowbert, E. G. Everett, F. J. Coventry, M. Ackroyd.

Referee: Mr A. E. Freethy (North).

Weak Bath Team Beaten.

It was hardly to be expected that the Bath side which visited Llanelly would win in Wales. Tomlinson was the only regular back who turned out for Bath. Reliance, therefore, was placed on other backs to help the club out in its difficulty. George Woodward, now in the veteran stage, came into the side at the last minute. Bath were also very poor in the forwards, having thinned their ranks. That and an obvious distaste for the long journey meant that Bath had to play a side that was quite representative. No wonder they were heavily defeated. The ground was in a terrible condition, but the home forwards did not bother to mind the mud. Bath managed to keep the points down in the first half, for when the interval came Llanelly only led by 6 to 0. They got the ball from the scrums, however, and sorts much smaller behind. The visitors had a heavy time in the second half, but Llanelly did what they liked and put on another 21 points. Jenkins (D.), Davies, Thomas and Jones (2) were the backs responsible for them. It was lack of combination that beat the Bath men, who put up a very plucky fight under the circumstances, but they tackled splendidly.

Clifton Beaten Again.

Bristol University were too good for Clifton at Coombe Dingle, and inflicted upon them their eighteenth defeat of the season by a dropped goal and two tries (one converted) to nothing. Clifton have been playing good football this season, and they showed a glimpse of their talent by the way in which their threes handled a greasy ball on such heavy going. Clifton had a heavy wind behind them in the first half, but University led at the interval. Half-way through the second half came the second score, when T. Brown, the home full-back, gained possession 30 yards from the Clifton line and dropped a goal. The visitors attacked and their threequarter line made several useful runs, but their line had a narrow escape when T. A. Brown kicked ahead and Hodges ran for touch and for another try under the posts which Brand failed to convert. The University attacked for nearly all the second half, but day two brief spells—the first when E. C. Evans, H. R. Wilgman, and C. H. Lloyd-Johnes, the last by drafting and cutting through, and the second nearly at the end, when the Clifton forwards gave a great series of footwork, which nearly gave Chetu a score.

Weston Hard Pressed.

Weston-super-Mare had as visitors the London Exiles on Saturday, who last year put up a plucky fight and were only beaten by a comparatively small margin. On the present occasion both teams suffered badly owing to the ravages of influenza, which hacked down a dozen regular players away. Fortunately, however, Weston were able to refer the services of L. D. Carter, of Hor field Church, and he played very well on a wing. Weston were very lucky in that they were adequately partnered by W. R. Kent, a Bristolian, who showed considerable ability, to give passes adequately in both directions. Weston had much the better of the play in the first half, but twice up at the interval, Clem Burrows, an enterprising forward, got the first, and the second was scored by Evans. Weston were unfortunate to lose Kent shortly after the interval with a severe foot injury. Burrows was taken out of the scrum, but the home side could not afford to lose a man against the quick and keen young University pack, and for a brief period conditions were forced upon the defensive. After fine work by Jenkins, and Oddie, Bonny, a forward, scored Weston just won by two tries to one.

Taunton's Winning Try.

A try scored 10 minutes after the start gave Taunton the verdict over Wiveliscombe, the only one of a very choky fight, especially seeing that they were handicapped through having several of their leading players absent owing to the influenza epidemic. The Athletic ground at Taunton was hardly fit for play, large pools of water being dotted about the pitch, which soon churned up to such an extent that even dribbling became very difficult. It was a matter of fact more headway was made by booting the ball and running after it than in keeping it close. It was a nice burst along the wing by Dunnet that led up to Taunton's try, which was the only score of the match. The winger was forced into touch in attempting a reverse pass, and from the ensuing line-out Payne-Besley dashed over near the corner flag. Owing to the state of the ground Taunton had few chances of exploit, their fast and clever backs, and the forwards generally being at a disadvantage in the second half gave the home defenders anxious moments.

Gloucester's Forwards Dominant

Gloucester adapted themselves better to the adverse weather conditions than did their opponents, the Old Blues, who were defeated at Kingsholm by 1 goal, 1 penalty goal and two tries (14 points) to a penalty goal and a try (7 points). Although the home backs did better than usual and brought the inside pass into operation with success, it was the forwards who won the game. Voyce was present after an absence of some four weeks, and Jim Seabrook was also available. Both played with great dash and with able support from Saxby, Short and Hemming gave the home forwards the advantage both in the tight and loose. With clever dribbling Gloucester's pack were constantly attacking, and gave the Old Blues' defence a strenuous time. Wetherson scored the opening try for the Old Boys early in the game, and Millington equalised with a penalty goal. Hemming added a try for Gloucester, and after the interval Crowther and Hughes scored tries, one of which Millington converted. Mills dropped a goal for the visitors.

Cheltenham Turn the Tables.

Cheltenham managed to turn the tables on the Old Edwardians, who beat them earlier in the season by 3 points to 2 points, on Saturday, when they won by a try to nil victory. A notable figure in the Cheltenham team was C. J. Barnett, the cricketing son of the Gloucestershire county cricketer, C. A. Barnett. He is a scholarship boy at Wycliffe College, and shown such good form in the "A" and Wednesday teams that he could not fail to gain recognition. Like his father, he is a powerful hard hitting Rugby and Soccer for Cheltenham, he is strongly built, and has the makings of a good forward. He was missed at hooker for the Gloucester forward, was another member of the Cheltenham from rank; and James, a Forces on Duty, who recently left Yorkshire, operated for them as fly half. The Cheltenham try was scored in the first half by Stewart. The game was much the better for the more open and attractive, the second stage being too much in the nature of a struggle with ten men. Jenkins having to be carried off the field.

Out of the 16 tries, six were won by away teams, and there were five draws. Only five home teams could, therefore, win outright.

Scottish clubs did well. Southampton lived up to their reputation as successful Cup fighters by defeating Birmingham, the Midland town's last remaining club in the competition, by 4—1. The Saints thoroughly deserved their win, their forwards being quicker on the ball and frequently having the Birmingham defence in a tangle.

Reading delighted their supporters by passing in to Round 5. They never gave Bristol Rovers' conquerors, Portsmouth, a chance to settle down. Taking advantage of a stiffish wind in the first half, the Biscuitmen rattled up a three-goal lead and then held on to their advantage.

One of the surprise results came from Derby, where Millwall were visitors. Rams were woeful, because they were quicker to seize their opportunities. One of the two goals by which Millwall won was a penalty, taken by the ex-Bristol Rover, Phillips.

One of London's homes: Fulham were made to bite the dust, at Craven Cottage, too, by Burnley, which, with Newcastle United, are joint favourites for the final. Fulham were overawed, and even missed from a "sure" kick.

Wales has two representatives in the competition, Cardiff City and Swansea. On Saturday Cardiff were at Darlington, where they were the better side, and richly deserved their success against the second divisioners. Darlington's defence was on of the best of the term. The Cardiff would have won by a more convincing margin than 2—0.

One of the best performances of the day was put up by Swansea, who won at Barnsley. The winning of the toss was of assistance to the Swans, for they took advantage of a strong wind and played a game which they held on to. Deports across that Swansea were the better side.

Middlesbrough demonstrated what splendid combination they are by winning at Preston. Their clever shortpasser, Cassell, scored three, all the goals of the match, for Boro.

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Darlington, 0; Cardiff City (McLaughlin, Ferguson), 2.

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Fulham, 0; Burnley (Beel 2, Page, Brown), 4.

Hull City (Martin), 1; Everton (Virr), 1.

Leeds United, 0; Bolton, 0.

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West Ham (Ruffell), 1; Brentford (Lane), 1.

Wolverhampton (Phillipson, Weaver), 2; Notts. Forest, 0.

Attendances and Receipts.

	Attendance.	£
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Arsenal v. Port Vale, at Highbury.
Everton v. Hull City, at Liverpool.
Bolton Wanderers v. Leeds United, at Bolton.

South Shields v. Sheffield Wednesday, at South Shields.

THE LEAGUE.

No changes took place in the leaderships of the four divisions. In Division III. (Southern) Bristol City advanced to second position by Exeter, which was against Crystal Palace. The Ashton Gate ground record was at the same time kept intact. As Swindon took a point from the City's promotion chances were strengthened.

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	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Newcastle U.	25	17	3	5	60	33	37
Huddersfield	25	11	12	3	55	28	34
Burnley	25	13	7	5	66	43	33
Sunderland	27	14	5	8	64	45	33
Bolton Wand.	25	12	5	8	53	34	29
Leicester	25	11	7	7	39	46	29
Tottenham	25	10	7	9	52	47	27
The Arsenal	25	9	9	7	44	45	27
West Ham U.	25	11	4	10	40	37	26
Manchester U.	25	10	6	9	39	42	26
Liverpool	25	11	3	11	40	40	25
Sheffield W.	25	9	7	10	44	53	25
Sheffield U.	25	11	3	11	49	43	25
Blackburn R.	25	10	5	11	51	67	25
Aston Villa	25	9	6	10	44	37	24
Birmingham	25	10	3	12	31	40	23
Bury	25	8	7	10	43	50	22
Derby County	25	10	1	14	45	44	21
Leeds U.	25	8	4	13	40	37	20
Cardiff City	24	7	5	12	39	41	19
Everton	27	6	6	15	45	64	18
West Bromwich A	25	5	4	16	35	61	14

Division II.

Blackpool (Thorpe, Fishwick), 2; Manchester City (Johnson, Hicks 2, Cowan), 4.

Grimsby (Marshall), 1; Notts County (Widdowson 2, Kelly, Harris), 4.

Oldham (Taylor, King), 2; Bradford City (Ormston), 1.

CUP-TIE PROGRESS.

500,000 Watch Sixteen Games.

City Win : Rovers Defence Fails.

Saturday was Cup Day, and the interest taken in the 16 fourth round games dwarfed that centred in League encounters. Half a million people saw the 16 Cup games.

Of this number 56,000 gathered at the historic Crystal Palace ground, where, after a thrilling game, the foremost amateur club in the country were beaten by the League leaders. The Corinthians put up a splendid opposition, and played plucklily; in fact, they led 1—0 at the interval. After the interval the training of the professional men of Newcastle United told its tale, and they eventually won 3—1.

The game at the Palace was reminiscent of a pre-war Cup Final in the matter of cheering. A big number in the home crowd were constantly urging the Corinthians on. Misfortune helped to bring about the Corinthians' defeat. They tacked the services of Hartley, their clever forward, who could not play, and they finished the game with ten men, Jenkins having to be carried off the field.

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Chelsea	25	11	7	7	32	27	29
Southampton	25	11	6	8	41	38	28
Oldham Ath.	25	12	4	10	41	47	28
Reading	25	11	6	8	32	47	28
Blackpool	25	9	5	11	53	51	23
Bradford	25	9	5	11	39	50	23
South Shields	25	9	4	10	44	39	22
Barnsley	24	9	4	11	47	60	22
Notts County	25	8	6	11	44	49	22
Fulham	25	7	5	13	33	58	19
Stockport C.	25	7	5	13	43	63	19
Darlington	25	4	4	18	43	55	12
Grimsby Town	25	5	2	18	33	50	12
Barrow	24	4	5	15	32	57	13
Bradford City	26	3	7	16	27	53	13

Division III. (Southern).

Bournemouth (Taylor 2, Stringfellow 2, Eyre 2), 6; Watford, 0.

Brighton (Jennings 2, Hopkins 3, Mooney, Cook), 7; Bristol Rovers 0

Bristol City (Keating 3, Gilhespy, Drummond), 5; Crystal Palace (Turner, Grant, Cherrett 2), 4.

Charlton (Biswell 2, G. H. Armitage, R. W. Trickett), 4; Southend United, 0.

Luton (Pointon, Graham), 2; Exeter (Phoenix, Graham own goal), 2.

Newport County (Bennett, Gittens, Johnson 2, Forward), 5; Aberdare (Williams 2), 2

Norwich (Jackson, Aitken), 2; Swindon (Hill), 0.

Plymouth A., 0; Gillingham, 0.

Southend (Hick), 3; Merthyr T. (Page), 1

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Swindon	26	16	4	6	66	32	36
BRISTOL CITY	23	15	5	3	68	37	35
Millwall	23	15	4	4	47	20	34
Brighton	23	14	6	3	54	32	32
Newport County	25	14	4	7	46	40	32
Bournemouth A.	23	12	6	5	52	47	31
Exeter City	24	10	6	8	50	38	26
Norwich	24	9	8	7	36	31	26
Crystal Palace	23	10	5	8	44	36	25
Brentford	24	9	7	8	42	34	25
Southend Utd.	25	11	3	11	48	45	25
Bournemouth	24	10	5	9	48	39	25
Norwich City	24	10	4	10	37	35	24
Coventry City	26	10	1	15	44	60	21
MERTHYR TYDFIL	24	8	5	11	36	40	21
Watford	25	9	2	15	35	53	20
Charlton Athl.	25	8	4	13	34	47	20
Northn Town	23	7	4	12	30	44	18
Q.P. Rangers	25	7	4	14	30	65	18
Gillingham	25	6	5	14	34	52	17
Northampton	26	6	5	15	34	56	17
Aberdare	26	4	3	19	36	71	11

Division III. (Northern).

Ashington (Harris), 1; Wigan Borough (Dickinson), 2.

Chester (McDonald), 1; Barrow, 0.

Chesterfield (Moore), 1; Doncaster Rovers (T. Kelley), 2.

Crewe Alexandra (Owen), 1; Halifax (Dixon 2), 2.

Hartlepools (Waite), 1; Lincoln City (Andrews), 1.

Nelson (Sharp), 1; Stoke, 0.

New Brighton (Wade, Shelton), 2; Wrexham (Smith), 1.

Rochdale (Hughes 2, Tomkinson), 3; Tranmere (Flanagan), 1.

Walsall (Hodgson, Prufford, Smith), 3; Rotherham United (Chilton 2), 2.

Leading Clubs.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Stoke City	26	17	5	4	53	29	39
Wrexham	26	15	6	5	61	31	36
Stafford	26	15	5	6	55	34	35
Halifax	25	13	9	3	41	27	35
Rochdale	26	13	6	7	45	33	32
Stockport County	24	15	3	6	55	34	33
New Brighton	26	13	6	7	45	34	32
Tranmere Rovers	25	11	5	10	53	45	27
Chesterfield	24	11	4	9	44	35	26
Walsall	25	10	6	9	44	40	26

SCOTTISH LEAGUE.

Clyde (Wallace) 1; Dundee United, 0.

Cowdenbeath (Dunsire 2, Bell, Hamilr 2, Macdonald), 6; Airdrie, 0.

Dundee (Campbell 3), 3; Motherwell (Stevenson), 1.

Falkirk (McAlwaine, Kennedy, Hunter, Scott), 4; St Johnstone, 0.

Hearts (Wilson), 1; Celtic, 2.

Hibernians (McColl, Ritchie), 2; Dunfermline (Skimer, Williamson), 2.

Kilmarnock (Mitchell, Bell, Gormley, Paterick Thistle, 0.

Morton (Archibald Buchanan 2), 5; Aberdeen (Dodds 2, Bruce 2), 4.

Queen's Park (Gillespie), 1; Heart of Midlothian, 0.

Abandoned after ten minutes of second half.

Leading Clubs.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Rangers	19	15	2	2	50	13	32
Motherwell	24	15	4	5	55	35	34
Celtic	22	14	4	4	71	23	32
Aberdeen	22	13	4	5	48	24	30
Dundee	24	11	7	6	39	30	29
Cowdenbeath	23	12	4	7	47	34	28
St Mirren	26	12	3	10	35	43	27
Falkirk	24	11	4	9	37	34	26
Dundee United	22	12	1	9	37	35	25

BRISTOL CITY'S WIN.

Lapse From First Half Success.

Bristol City playing at Ashton Gate beat Bristol Rovers in the Western Derby by 5—3 after a remarkable game. The City led at half-time by 5—1 and looked to be in for an overwhelming victory, but the Rovers made good use of a fine performance and had been splendid in front of goal, snapping up chances in a way suggestive of the highest class of finishing. They held to this lead till a quarter of an hour from the finish, when the City forwards began to rapid goals. In two of these cases it looked that Coggins might have made a much better attempt to save, and in the three instances there were certainly lapses on the part of the defence before the final shots were scored.

The Danger Light.

Thus, in their last two home matches the City have sur