

## LOUGHBOROUGH v. WOOLWICH ARSENAL.

As the Luffs were ignominiously defeated by a Notts League team in the previous round of the English Cup, to-day would have been a vacant date for them if they had arranged another match. Burton Wanderers refused to oblige the wooden spoonists by anticipating their Birmingham Cup fixture, and so the Arsenal were contented upon to journey into the Midlands now instead of on January 9, and contented themselves with leaving their Reserves to win their spurs in the English Cup at home. The Reds have no pleasant recollections of their last visit to Loughborough—now notorious as the haven of bliss for teetotalers—as, although the Luffs' visits to Plumstead have always ended in dire disaster to the hosiers, the Arsenal had victory snatched from their grasp at Loughborough in the early part of 1896 by an extraordinary double knock in the closing stages of the game. Loughborough were anxious to repeat the dose this time, and, with small consideration for the feelings of the lads from Plumstead, patched up their dilapidations with the hope of inaugurating by this afternoon's engagement a new era in their current history. A. Shelton, who has earned fame with Notts County in the past, having formed one of the team who won the English Cup a few years back, and played as an International on six occasions, had been transferred to Loughborough to assist them out of their dilemma, and made his appearance against the Arsenal, strengthening the half-back line, which has been so palpably weak all through the season. A youth named Brailsford, who hails from a local club in the proximity of Nottingham, and has the reputation of being a prolific goal scorer, also made his debut as centre forward, Blackett having insufficiently recovered from an illness. The kick-off was timed for half-past two o'clock, and the teams were:—

Loughborough.—H. Monteith, goal; J. Berry and R. Thompson, backs; Mumford, J. Hamilton, and A. Shelton, halves; F. Rouiston and W. Andrews, right wing; Brailsford, centre; and J. Jones and W. Ward, left wing.

Arsenal.—Talbot; Buist and Carver; Crawford, Boylan, and Davis; Brock, Haywood, Boyd, O'Brien, and Russell Reserve, McFarlane. Referee, Mr. A. Green (West Bromwich); linesmen, Messrs. King (Basford) and Wright (Heanor).

More interest was evinced in the match than would otherwise have been the case, as the Arsenal and Loughborough are possible rivals for the championship of the United League, Loughborough having a record in the new combination which is quite a contrast to the hopeless mess they are in in the premier competition.

Rain fell pitilessly, rendering the ground heavy and good play at a discount. Nevertheless the home team delighted their admirers by piling on a couple of goals within five minutes, both pretty goals from Hamilton and Jones. After this the Reds went at it hammer and tongs, and it was only due to Monteith and the backs that several goals were not brought about, as Boyd, O'Brien, and Russell each made some grand shots, only for the custodian to clear with his usual agility and skill. The greater part of the half Loughborough were penned in.

Loughborough did most of their work with breaking away, but when they did get down nothing could stop them, and owing to a palpable weakness in the visitors' defence, the halves getting too far up, Jones and Ward added two more just before the interval, when the score was: Loughborough 4, Arsenal 0.

Final: Loughboro' 8, Woolwich Arsenal 0.