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FOOTBALL.

THE RUGBY GAME.

BY

HARRY VASSALL,

HON. TREASURER OF THE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION,
LATE CAPTAIN OF THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL CLUB.

WITH A CHAPTER ON PROFESSIONALISM

BY

ARTHUR BUDD,

PAST PRESIDENT OF THE RUGBY UNION.

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P R E F A C E.



SINCE well-nigh everything that there is to be said about the game of football has already appeared in print in various magazine articles and football handbooks, we cannot lay claim to much originality of subject-matter for this work. Nevertheless we have been led to suppose that a comprehensive treatment of the subject on practical lines might still prove of interest to the football world.

We have throughout presupposed on the part of our readers an elementary acquaintance with the game, and have, therefore, not thought it necessary to attempt any definition of the game itself, or of the terms in ordinary use in connection with it.

Keeping strictly in mind the practical nature that this work is intended to bear, we have eschewed all reference to what may fairly be termed the ancient history of the game, no less than all unnecessary comparisons with the sister game of Association, and, after tracing the rise of

the Rugby Union and the development of the various styles of play, have confined our hints to players to the requirements of the game as it is now played.

In the later chapters we have something to say on professionalism, on refereeing, and on the reforms which have been already effected, as well as those which are still needed; the laws themselves we have placed in an Appendix at the end of the book.

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RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL.



CHAPTER I.

RISE OF THE RUGBY UNION.

THE Rugby Football Union was organized in the early part of 1871, at the initiative of the Richmond and Blackheath clubs. The difficult task of drafting the code of laws was, we believe, undertaken mainly by Messrs. A. G. Guillemard (West Kent), E. H. Ash (Richmond), and F. I. Currey (Marlborough Nomads), to whose untiring energy and enthusiasm the formation of the Union was largely due. Some of them had been engaged eight years previously in endeavouring to frame a code of laws which would suit all players, but these negotiations had been terminated on the formation of the Football Association in 1863, under a code which Rugbeians could not afford to accept.

From that time forward the two games have drifted further and further apart, but time has shown that there is plenty of room for both, and consequently the country has distinctly gained by the bifurcation.

At the end of its first full season the Rugby Union comprised thirty-three clubs, and the balance-sheet showed an income of £7, with an expenditure of £5; at the end of this, its nineteenth season, there are 290 clubs on the list,

the income has increased to nearly £1200, and the expenditure to upwards of £500.

Three of the original clubs hailed from Scotland, viz. West of Scotland, Edinburgh University, and Glasgow Academicals; the rest all came from round London, and a third of them, whose names we give *honoris causâ*, are still on the list, viz. Marlborough Nomads, Richmond, Blackheath, Guy's, Clapham Rovers, Epsom, Wellington and St. Paul's Schools, Queen's (then called Queen's House), Wasps, and Civil Service.

In the following season the Harlequins, Oxford, Eaton Rovers, and Dulwich were admitted from the South, and Wigan, Liverpool, and Manchester, from Lancashire. Trinity College, Dublin, was the first Irish club to join the Union, and Hull was the only representative of Yorkshire until Bradford joined in 1874; whereas at the present day Yorkshire and Lancashire can count their members by scores, and even the colonies can muster double figures.

In the early days of the Union the entrance fee and subscription were fixed at five shillings each, in 1874 they were raised to a guinea each, and the Union could now in any single season largely increase the number of its members by reverting to the original figures, if for any reason it should think it wise to do so.

When to these facts it is added that in 1873, 1875, and 1880, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, respectively, started separate Unions of their own, which are all in a flourishing condition, we have said enough to afford conclusive evidence of the general popularity of the Union code throughout the United Kingdom. But perhaps the growth of the game can be still more clearly illustrated by tracing the history of the Rugby Union Committee—the body to which has been entrusted from the first the management and

control of the game. Composed originally of fifteen ordinary members and four officers—a president, two vice-presidents, and a joint secretary and treasurer—it has since undergone but two changes in shape; first, by the addition of the past presidents as *ex-officio* members in 1877, and secondly, by the final separation of the offices of secretary and treasurer in 1881, when Mr. Rowland Hill took office for the first time; but in the matter of representation the case is far different.

At first the entire committee was naturally composed of London men, but by the year 1873 the North were already putting forward claims which could not be denied. In that year an unofficial North *v.* South match was arranged by Messrs. James MacLaren and Roger Walker of Manchester, and Mr. E. Kewley of Liverpool acting for the North, and by Mr. F. I. Currey, the secretary of the Union, acting for the South. Accordingly, in 1874, we find Messrs. MacLaren and Kewley elected as the first Northern representatives on the committee, and from that time forward North *v.* South became a regular Union fixture. In 1877 Mr. H. W. Garnett was given a place on committee as the first representative of Yorkshire, and in the following year Mr. Kewley was made the first Northern vice-president, and at the same time the North were allotted five other places on committee, an extra place being afterwards made for Mr. MacLaren by the unanimous vote of the committee under their powers to add to their number. In 1881 Mr. J. D. Miller was elected as the first representative of the West, and in the next year Mr. MacLaren became the first Northern President. Since that date places have been allotted to Cheshire, Northumberland, Durham, Westmoreland, Midland Counties, the Universities, and New Zealand—the various parts of the kingdom being

admitted to a share in the management as soon as the position that the game had reached in each of them seemed to warrant it. In the face of these facts it can hardly be argued that the original London monopoly has been unduly maintained, and to our mind it seems hardly likely that any other system of election than that in vogue could have produced a more thoroughly representative body.

During the many years of their existence they have had many difficult questions to deal with, such as disputes and rivalries between districts, clubs, and individuals, the adjustment of which has sometimes demanded the exercise of much tact and diplomacy; the selection of teams, a thankless task which they entrust to a sub-committee of their most competent judges, with the proviso that they must all be members of different clubs; the suppression of professionalism, a veritable labour of Hercules from which, in the best interests of the game, they have not shrunk, though we must wait yet awhile to see the results of their policy, which is only now being put to the test; and, lastly, the reform of the laws, a question on which their policy has always been conservative in the best sense of the word—a policy that is to say of always keeping pace with, but never going in advance of, that public opinion, in the forming of which they themselves take no small part. As a signal testimony to their success they can point with pride to the fact that no vote of want of confidence has ever been carried against them at a general meeting; on the contrary, whenever a vote has been taken, their policy has always been endorsed (with the single exception of a question as to which of two Northerners should be elected to a vacant vice-presidency), and that no less decisively on the great question of the rupture with the International Board than on all minor points that have occurred from time to time.

As we have referred incidentally above to the fact of past presidents being *ex-officio* members of committee—a fact which has roused fears in some minds that they will eventually swamp the rest of the committee, we may with advantage here point out that under the new law, which makes attendance at meetings a condition of their membership, those of them who cease to take an active interest in the game will from time to time drop off, whilst under another clause of the same law they are expressly debarred from voting in full committee on the selection of teams ; at the same time the inequality of Northern and Southern past presidents which now exists owing to the Southern origin of the Union, will be redressed as time goes on by the same dropping off of the aged Southerner and the inclusion of future Northern presidents.

If by any chance the new law is found not to answer its purpose, the committee may surely be trusted to adopt the necessary measures in self-defence.

CHAPTER II.

THE UNION MATCHES.

THE year which saw the foundation of the Rugby Union saw also the first international match, played at Edinburgh, and won by Scotland—a victory which they have twice repeated, whilst no less than seven of the sixteen matches played have been drawn. The earlier matches were played with twenty a side. In those days men like J. A. Bush of Clifton and F. I. Currey were the typical forwards ; the best half-backs were of the build of W. H. Milton and

S. Morse ; the best three-quarter-back was H. Freeman, who would probably have been no less distinguished as a centre three-quarter-back in the modern game. In our early schoolboy days we well remember gazing with awe on these heroes of the past in their international caps, which were then a novelty, when they came down to play against the school.

In 1874 a challenge was received from Ireland, which was accepted for the following season. They were easily beaten for many years, but in 1882 the game was drawn, and after that the matches were very even, until 1887, when Ireland scored their first victory in what has unfortunately proved to be, for a time at all events, the last of this series of matches.

We have already explained how Mr. MacLaren and others got North v. South made a regular Union match in 1874 ; it remains to offer an explanation of the wonderfully long string of victories which have been gained by the South in these contests. When it is remembered that county football is very flourishing in the North, and apparently moribund in the metropolis, that they have hundreds of players in the North for every one in the South, and that there are dozens of good Northern club teams for every good Southern club team, the almost unbroken success of the South at first sight appears strange indeed ; but if we look into the matter more closely, we shall find that, paradoxical as it may seem, this plethora of good men in the North is the very thing that spoils their chances. Nearly all the good men of the South have hitherto been concentrated in a very few clubs. We are far from maintaining that this is a benefit to Southern football in general, but it has undoubtedly enabled the Southern selecting committee to put in the field year after year teams of men who thoroughly knew one another's play ;

the principle of selection in the South being to take as many men as possible from the best team of the year whenever any team, such as Richmond, Blackheath, Oxford, or Somerset County, has been able, as they repeatedly have been, to claim that title.

In the North, on the other hand, where so many teams have undeniable claims to be represented, the selecting committee have generally found themselves unable to resist the pressure brought to bear upon them, with the result that the teams they put into the field are, as compared with the Southern, essentially scratch ones, however good the individual members of them may happen to be. The double victory gained by the North in 1888-89 only tends to prove the truth of the theory advanced, because in that year Yorkshire County had proved themselves to be so far superior to all their competitors, that they were fairly able to supply a large majority of the North team ; and in the same year, by a curious coincidence, the usually strong teams of the South were exceptionally weak, and the Old Leysians had not then proved their strength.

As the North and South match has always been strictly regarded as a trial match for the English team, no one who is not qualified to play for England is allowed to take part in it. Many men are qualified to play for either the North or the South by birth and residence ; in such cases, in order to ensure all the best men of the year taking part in the match, the only principle that has hitherto been observed is that birth gives a prior claim. This accounts for the apparent anomaly that some men have played on one side in one year and on the other the next.

Trial matches such as the North *v.* South, which have a genuine interest of their own, are admirable institutions ; but trial matches *per se* are an abomination ; for many years

the Union had such matches played both in the North and in the South, but eventually they were given up in recognition of the fact that they did more harm than good, and their place was taken by the county matches in the North ; whilst for the South the Union accepted a proposal which emanated from Oxford in 1881, to play a combined Oxford and Cambridge team against London. A few years later, thanks mainly to the indefatigable perseverance of the late Harry Fox of Wellington, they started a similar match, called London *v.* Western Counties, after which they now select a joint team to meet the Universities. We have great hopes of seeing a preliminary contest between London and the Midland Counties introduced, and then this series of matches will be fairly complete for the present. It is true that Sutcliffe of Yorkshire and Richards of the Old Leysians were unearthed in trial matches pure and simple, but we hold that selecting committees should be able to discover such men without them.

To return once more to the international matches, Wales *v.* England was first played in 1880, and after an interval of a year, in which they met a North of England team, the match was made annual, and has produced some excellent contests, though Wales has never yet been nearer to victory than in the last match, which was drawn.

In 1888 England played no international matches ; but the Union started a return North *v.* South, and, in the following season, a match between the Champion County and the Rest of England, both of which proved so successful that they are sure to be retained, even when the international matches are resumed. It is to be hoped that the Champion County match will also have a galvanic effect upon the metropolitan counties, and lead to the adoption of a better-organized system of matches than that now in force. All

counties, with any claims to be considered first-class, should meet each other at least once a season, and they should call upon their clubs not to arrange important club matches on county-match days.

The only Union match to which we have not yet referred is that of England *v.* the Maoris in 1888. The match was hardly a success from any point of view, except that it gave the Committee an opportunity, which they would otherwise have lacked, of putting the English team for that year into the field. The chief interest of the match lies in the proof it affords, coming as it did just after the tour of Shaw and Shrewsbury's team in New Zealand and Australia, of the firm hold which the Rugby game has gained upon the colonies.

CHAPTER III.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAY.

WE need not pause long to discuss the much-abused shoving matches of the days when twenty a side were played. They have gone never to return, regretted by none, unless perhaps by the modern half-back when he dreams of the glorious chances he would have if the forwards, and especially the wing-players, would only continue to entangle themselves as inextricably as of yore. In justice, however, to the players of that day, we may observe that they held their proper place in the evolution of the game. The modern player is not much more in advance of them than they were in advance of those who thought nothing of playing the Sixth Form against the whole of the rest of the school. We can ourselves remember taking part in games

of over fifty a side, and very poor fun they were ! We also remember a curious school rule whereby the boys could play two for every one over the number of twenty brought down for the old boys' match—a privilege which would be laughed at by any respectable school fifteen of the present day.

The change from twenty to fifteen a side, which was started by club secretaries because of the difficulty of putting twenty men into the field, was officially adopted by the Union in 1877, at the request of Scotland. A more open style of play naturally followed, which was so much appreciated that the laws were soon altered to suit it by insisting on the ball being put down *immediately* it was held ; and this led to the increase in the number of three-quarter-backs, first from one to two, with two full-backs, and then to three, with one full-back—in other words, three-quarter-back became the main line of defence against the rush of opposing forwards. Meanwhile the advantages of passing the ball were becoming apparent, and a system of short passing, amongst the forwards only, was brought to a considerable pitch of perfection by Blackheath and a few other clubs ; but it was not until 1882 that the Oxford team took up a suggestion made by Mr. A. Budd in a magazine article, and developed the modern system of long, low passing to the open by both backs and forwards alike with such success that they kept an unbeaten record for nearly three seasons against the best clubs in the country.

This system, which we will explain fully in a later chapter, was so universally adopted, that for some time there was a distinct danger of its being carried too far—if, indeed, that danger has yet been averted.

Many clubs adopted the passing game without fully understanding the principles of it, and certainly without

understanding that it goes hand in hand with the dribbling game, and that to have acquired the first without the second is at best only half the battle, and is likely to end in total defeat.

The splendid possibilities in the way of combination and of passing with the feet afforded by the dribbling game have never yet, so far as we are aware, been fully worked out. This development of the play we hope to see taken in hand by some competent team and brought to a state of perfection in the near future.

CHAPTER IV.

CAPTAINCY.

It is not perhaps fully appreciated as yet that the captain of a football team holds just as difficult and responsible a post as the captain of a cricket team. The same sort of qualities are required for both, and both get in the course of a match those openings for the display of generalship which often decide the match. A bad captain misses the opportunities; a good one seizes them in one game no less than the other. In both games good captains are rare; but more so in football than in cricket, because good cricket has been played so much longer than good football, that the traditional knowledge of the game, as it should be played, is more widespread. In Rugby football, at any rate, the really great captains can be counted on the fingers of one hand. At the head of the list we do not hesitate to place W. MacLagan, of the London Scottish, and L. Stokes, of Blackheath. A young captain could learn more of his

business by watching them turn a doubtful game into a victory, or, still better, by himself leading a team against them, than by reading all that ever has been, or will be, written upon the subject.

Since, however, it is a *sine quâ non* that he should be as well versed in the theory as in the practice of the game, we must endeavour to point out the necessary qualifications for any one who means to become a first-rate captain. To begin with, he should know all the rules by heart—not only the rules of play, but also the rules governing umpires and referees, because with him lies the duty of making any necessary appeals and of sternly repressing all unwarrantable appeals on the part of his men. If this elementary precaution was taken by all captains we might hope to see less of the bickering and wrangling which are still far too prevalent at the present time.

After thoroughly mastering all the laws, our captain must next make up his mind as to what style of play he means his team to adopt, and by personal instruction, both on the field of play and off it, he must see that his men fully understand that style and carry it out in all its details. Of course his selection of a style may be limited by the traditions of his club, if those traditions are sound, in which case he will be wise not to attempt more than the introduction of any modifications which seem to him necessary; or again by the capacity of the men at his disposal. It is his business to get out of his men absolutely all that they are worth, and a great deal can be done, by skilful education, with what looks like poor material at the start; but it is no use to adopt a style for which his men are physically unsuited.

And here we may remark that it is of the utmost importance that the captain should have the unfettered selection of his team whenever such a course is possible. At schools,

universities, and any other places where there is a large field to select from, this rule should be absolute, and we must trust to the pressure of public opinion as a guarantee against unfair selections. In many clubs he naturally has to take what men he can get and make the best of them ; but wherever a choice is possible, the person who is responsible for the play should certainly have the selection of the players in his own hand, and this fact should be borne in mind by the men when they are selecting their captain for the season. It lies with them to elect the best man and give him full power, and not to elect an inferior man on side issues, and to think they can make matters straight by limiting his power. The natural result of such a course is that amateur captains spring up in the team who think they know more about it than the nominal captain—all sense of discipline is lost, and the inevitable fate of the house divided against itself overtakes them.

Granted, then, that the captain's power is practically absolute, after deciding on what is to be the dominant style of his team, he must see that they are able to adapt their style to any emergencies that arise owing to variations in the weather, or the strength and style of teams opposed to him. If, for instance, he has adopted the long-passing game he will probably find it useless in wet weather, and must make his men dribble instead. If he is playing four three-quarters and finds that his eight forwards are swamped by the opposing nine, he must make his extra three-quarter go forward. If, when playing against a strong wind, he finds his backs unable to check the attack of his opponents, he may sometimes be justified in playing an extra man behind for the time, provided that the forwards can spare the man ; or, if his team are accustomed to play an offensive game, he may have to make them adopt defensive tactics, such as

keeping the ball tight in the scrummage, or punting it constantly into touch for a while ; but we hope that no captain will ever make his team adopt the tight game as their regular style of play. The object of the game is not merely to avoid being beaten, but to win the match, and to get as much enjoyment out of the process as possible. Defensive tactics are quite justifiable in special cases, but we should be very sorry to be a member—whether forward or behind—of a team whose ambition was to make a draw of every match, or at most to win by a dropped goal with luck.

We have said enough to show that the captain must be a man of many resources, ever ready to meet unforeseen dangers, or to take advantage of unexpected openings that may occur in the varying phases of the game ; but, beyond this, he must always have an eye on the individual members of his team, to see that they keep in their proper places and do their proper work. Without constant warnings and exhortations from the captain, bad habits soon grow up, and disaster ensues, which he might have averted. Backs and three-quarters come in too close ; half-backs fail to pass at the critical moment ; a chance for a dropped goal, where no try is possible, is lost, or is taken and missed, when a try was a certainty ; forwards fail to mark their men at the line out, or to follow up a kick-off, all for lack of a word from the captain.

It will thus be seen that, as the captain has to use his eyes no less than his head, it is better, if possible, that he should play behind the scrummage. Any place behind is fairly good, but centre three-quarters is undoubtedly the best spot from which to control the game. If he is playing forward he must either damage the scrummage by keeping his head up, or he must miss many of the points which he ought to see.

If the captain wins the toss, he has to decide between choice of goals and taking the kick-off. In this his guiding principle should be to do whatever is most likely to give his team a good start in the game. If there is a strong wind, or a distinct slope, he will be wise to take advantage of them at the outset. If there is nothing to choose between the two ends, he had much better take the kick-off. In any case he must see that his team knows how to make the most of the kick-off, and the kick-out. A high kick and smart following up are wanted for both. The chief reason why following up is so slack in many teams is that the kicker tries to kick as far as he can, instead of as high as he can, and the forwards consequently find that they can rarely get to the pitch of the ball, however hard they follow up. In the case of a high kick, on the contrary, they can make certain of either catching it themselves or of tackling the catcher before he can get off. The captain of the defending side should make two or three of his forwards drop back regularly to help the backs to cover the ground for receiving such catches.

It is also the captain's business to see that he has some good place-kickers in his team, and place-kicking is an art that any one can learn with practice; a captain has therefore only himself to thank if he loses a match from tries or fair catches not being converted into goals. There is no objection to one man taking the short place-kicks and another the long ones, provided that each has a regular assistant, accustomed to his ways, to place the ball for him.

The selection of the club secretary does not generally lie with the captain, but it is highly important that they should work well together, since the secretary is the man above all others on whose keenness the captain has to rely for help in inspiring his men with enthusiasm. A slack secretary

can do almost as much as a bad captain towards letting even the best of teams go to pieces in the course of a season.

Finally, the more autocratic the captain is the better, provided that he has tact enough to keep on good terms with his men. He must repress sternly all attempts at "gallery" or illegitimate play, and reprimand any player guilty of egregious blunders in the game, though as a general rule he had better reserve his expostulations until the game is over. If the offenders prove incorrigible, he must give their places to others more amenable to instruction.

CHAPTER V.

FULL-BACK.

WE will now take the positions on the field in order, beginning with the last line of defence. Full-back is an essentially defensive post, and probably for that reason good ones are rare. There is undoubtedly more enjoyment to be got out of playing three-quarters than out of watching the game with perhaps very little to do at full-back ; and the worst of it is that, the better the team in front of you is, the less you will get to do, because a good team does not call on the last line of defence so often as a weaker one. But for all that the post is one of the utmost importance, even in the best team, since no team can hope to keep its opponents and the ball always in front of their three-quarters ; and whenever the full-back is called upon to act, everything depends on him. This fact ought to be sufficient to induce men to take to the post if they have the two necessary

qualifications, viz. good tackling and good kicking powers, especially as they have more chance of coming to the front as full-backs than as three-quarters, of whom there are already crowds in the field.

If a captain has not got a full-back ready made in his team, the best thing he can do is to get the most likely of his three-quarters for the work to take the post, and then to keep careful watch that he does not let his old habits as a three-quarter get the better of him in his new position. Such a man would be especially liable to the common fault of coming too far up the ground. A full-back must always stand far enough back to be able to receive the ball without having to turn round and run after it, at the same time he must not stand so far back that he has to run up to get it after it has pitched, since either of these positions allows time for the opponent's forwards to come up to him before he has got in his kick. A very little practice will teach him the right position. After he has learnt where to stand, he must then learn to make sure of catching the ball without "muffing" it; for if he fumbles it at all, he is held to have played the ball, and he thereby puts on-side any forwards who have followed up off-side, and who are bound to give him five yards clear if he catches it true. A recent alteration in the laws has added a new danger to fumbling on the part of backs; for if they touch the ball and then let it cross the goal line, they are held to have passed the ball across their own goal line, in which case the opponents have a right to a scrummage at the spot where they touched it, unless they can bring it out without making it dead. Of course they must also beware of kicking or carrying the ball across their own goal line at all times, or the same penalty is incurred.

Granted, then, that our full-back has learnt where to

stand and how to catch the ball clean, the next thing that he has to make sure of is getting his kick—either a punt or a drop—into touch as far down the ground as he can. He must find out by experience how far he can make sure of kicking in various states of the wind, and aim for touch at that distance; but he should always bear in mind that he must send it into touch at all costs, as that means so much ground gained for his side for the next line out; whereas if it pitch in the field of play, his own men are all off-side and his opponents are free to resume the attack at once. The only exception to this rule is, if he is near enough to his opponent's goal to try a drop at goal, in which case he should always do so, if he has a clear chance. Goals have often been scored in this manner; but still more often the chance is lost, though one might fairly expect the back to look out for what is practically his only opening for offensive play.

It is far better for a back to be held with the ball than to have his kick charged down; if, accordingly, he is playing against a very strong wind, with a wet ball so heavy that he does not feel sure of being able to bring off his kick, then, and then only, he may run with it as far as he can, put it down directly he is tackled, and hurry back to his post, where he has a right to expect to find one of the three-quarters, who has dropped back to fill his place until his return. In the days when two full-backs were played, it used to be good play for a back to take a big kick down the field, and to put his men on-side by following up his kick; but now that there is only one full-back, it is distinctly bad play to do so, and we have never seen it done in a first-class match since the day when it led to a disaster to England in an international match. Nowadays the golden rule for full-backs is (with the exceptions above mentioned)

never to run, and always to make sure of the kick into touch.

So far we have dealt with the play of full-backs when they are receiving the ball. The second, and to our mind the far harder half of his work, consists in receiving the man with the ball. If he lets only the ball pass him, it is still possible for him to get out of the difficulty; but if he lets the man with the ball pass him, it is all up with his side for the time at all events.

There is one elementary rule about tackling under all circumstances, and that is, to go at your man low—to aim at the hips and not at the shoulder. In the latter case the tackler can always be shoved off and the try is a certainty; in the former case, provided that the tackler knows the right moment to go for his man, he is certain to hold him and the ball. But how he knows the right moment is a mystery which we have never been able to understand. We can only suppose that it comes by instinct to some and not to others. It is easy enough to learn to tackle as a forward, where you can go at your man with a rush, but it is quite another matter to stand the last man on your side, and to feel that you must bring the runner down at all costs. Some backs seem to exercise a sort of fascination over you, and you feel bound to run into their clutches. We have a lively recollection in this respect of the play of A. S. Taylor of Cambridge, and we believe that others felt much the same about H. B. Tristram of Oxford.

The only way to elude such a tackler is by passing just as you come to him, unless you have the power of turning when going at full speed, such as was possessed by Don Wauchope of Cambridge, G. C. Wade of Oxford, or Stoddart of Blackheath, and by very few others.

If a captain has to choose for his full-back between a

good tackler and a good kick, we should certainly recommend him to take the good tackler—a bad tackler will never become a good one, playing at full-back ; whereas the worst kick in the world can learn to punt respectably, and punting is an art which is not studied nearly as much as it should be by backs—it is easy to learn, and is much safer in wet weather than drop-kicking. If a team possesses a back who is both a good tackler and a good kick, they start every game with a feeling of confidence which of itself goes a long way towards victory ; it is for this reason that we have tried to show that the importance of the post can hardly be over-estimated.

CHAPTER VI.

THREE-QUARTER-BACK.

COMING next to the three-quarter-backs, the captain has to settle how many of them he means to play. Since the introduction of the open passing game the orthodox number has been three ; but Cardiff and a few other clubs have played four with such success as to make it an open question whether the odd man is of more use as a ninth forward or as a fourth three-quarter. Before coming to a decision on this knotty question, the captain must duly consider the *pros* and *cons* of the case ; in all ordinary cases three three-quarters ought to be able to defend their line ; it is therefore to strengthen the attack rather than the defence that a fourth is played, consequently he must be given plenty to do if his place is to be justified. Now, in a great many teams—in many even of the first rank—even

the three three-quarters do not get nearly enough work given them ; in such teams, then, it would be simple madness to have a fourth. In other words, the fourth three-quarter would be worse than useless unless the whole team, and especially the half-backs and the other three-quarters have worked up a system of passing sufficiently reliable and accurate to make sure of the ball reaching him pretty often, otherwise he will play the part of a spectator during the game when he might be doing good service in the ranks of the forwards.

It will thus be seen that the place is at the best a highly artificial one, which would be spoilt by any breakdown in the passing ; but granted that a captain feels sure enough that he can make good use of the man if he has got him, he still has to consider whether he can safely spare the extra forward. This depends so entirely on the character of the opponent's forwards, that it is impossible to lay down any hard and fast rule beforehand. If they are slack, or not in good training, or even if only they are not good scrummagers, he may perhaps be able to leave his eight men to cope with their nine, and make the most of his extra man behind. We have often seen eight forwards hold their own against nine, when a man has retired hurt, so the thing can be done ; but we should advise any captain who is bent on playing a fourth three-quarter, to select for the post a man who can also play a good forward game, so that he can change him after the game has begun, if he finds that the scrummages are being carried against him.

Supposing that only three are played, the next question to be decided is, which of them to put in the centre, and which on the wings. In our opinion, the best player of the three should always be in the centre—mere sprinters will do for the wings, if nothing better can be secured ; but the centre

must have a head on his shoulders, as he is the man who has not only to bear the brunt of the attack, but also to give the wings their openings, and sometimes to win the match himself by dropping a goal. To fulfil these requirements he must throw himself without hesitation on to the ball at the feet of the opponent's forwards when they are dribbling down upon him—a task which is not half so difficult as it looks, if done fearlessly. He must be equally good at taking and giving a pass, that is to say, he must always place himself on the open-field side of the scrummage and must warn the half-backs of his whereabouts by calling. The moment he receives the ball he must make for the open, and, before he is tackled, pass on to the wing, who is still further in the open, and then back him up to receive the ball again just before the wing is tackled, and so on until the ball is safely landed over the goal line, as it should be, if the passing is done with precision. Lastly, he must be quick at taking his drop, for as he starts much nearer the forwards than the full-back, he will have to kick from much more difficult positions. In deciding when to kick and when to pass, he will be guided principally by the position of the players on the field. If he sees a good opening for a series of passes, he should take it in preference to kicking into touch, as being more likely to lead to an immediate score. If, on the other hand, his side is being pressed, from his position in the field he will gain more ground than even a full-back can for his side by a long kick into touch.

It is impossible to say definitely where he ought to stand, as he has to be constantly changing his position at his own discretion. As a general principle he must stand farther back when his side is being pressed than when his side is attacking. He must always be ready to start running to the open side, and at the line out it is not a bad plan for

him to stand at the extreme end of the line in readiness either to start away on his own account, or to tackle his opponents if the ball is passed back to them. We have not mentioned tackling or pace as requisites for a centre, because, although both are enormous advantages in any player, the centre's defensive work lies more in quickly snapping up the ball or falling on it, than in direct tackling; unless, indeed, the opponents stop to pick up instead of dribbling, in which case they should fall an easy prey to even an inferior tackler; and his offensive work lies more in goal-dropping and in starting the runs for his wings than in making long runs himself.

In wing three-quarters, on the other hand, pace is the first essential, because they should be the chief try-getters in the team. Their principal work consists of getting into position in the open for receiving passes from the centre, and sometimes direct from the halves, and then running as hard as they can run. In this way sprinters, pure and simple, have often earned for themselves great reputations; but a real player will make much more out of the post than the best sprinter. He will not allow himself to be run into touch or tackled by the last of his opponents, as the sprinter so often does, but will pass back again whilst still engaging the attention of that last man, and so make a try a certainty for his side. Many a glorious chance of winning a match has been thrown away by wings holding on to the ball just too long, in the hopes of getting through themselves.

Moreover, a wing's work does not lie solely in scoring tries, he has also to stop his opponents from getting through the main line of defence, and this calls for no mean tackling powers, as any runner who reaches that line will by that time be going at his best pace, and will have in reserve the power of passing or of pretending to pass. The wings

should therefore keep well out, so as to cover the ground between the centre and the touch-line, and if they fail to stop the ball as well as the man, should at once go at full pace to the help of the full-back who may find himself in a similar difficulty. In any crisis it is always the duty of one of the three-quarters to go to the help of the full-back, and it is also their duty to mark and watch carefully any specially dangerous man amongst the opponent's three-quarters. The three-quarters undoubtedly have the best of the fun in the modern game, and in return it is their business to win the match either directly or indirectly. But they have a fair right to complain if, as is so often the case, their powers are not called into play owing to insufficient "feeding" on the part of the half-backs.

In the generation which succeeded that of L. Stokes, the best English three-quarters were Wade, Stoddart, Bolton, and Robertshaw. Of this quartette Robertshaw was, in his day, the best centre, by reason of his skill in stopping rushes, and his marvellous accuracy in passing to his wings; Bolton was far the best kick, and had great strength and pace; Stoddart was the best in-and-out dodger whilst going at full speed, and he had a marvellous way of securing tries by jumping clean over the full-back to land the ball, a trick which we should not recommend novices to imitate if they value their limbs. But Wade was, in our opinion, the best of the lot until he took to trusting too much to his great strength. He ran very fast and straight, and had a wonderful swerve when going at full pace, by which he foiled the tackler, who only received a nasty one from his iron thigh. It is this power of turning at full speed which, in our opinion, makes players a class above their compeers. In more recent times Valentine of Swinton, Hubbard of Blackheath, and Lockwood of Dewsbury, have been undeniably

first-rate players, but we have not seen enough of Sutcliffe and Alderson, of whom great things are predicted, to be able to compare them with their predecessors.

CHAPTER VII.

HALF-BACK.

WHEN the modern style of play was first introduced it was predicted that we should never get men to fill the unenviable post of half-back, so poor did the prospect for them appear when compared with the share in the game enjoyed by half-backs such as Hutchinson, Evanson, H. Taylor, and Twynam; but, as a matter of fact, from the very first some of the old players adapted their play to the new style, and Alan Rotherham at once came to the front as a pattern for all who followed. We have only to mention such names as those of Bonsor, Payne, the two Scotts, Fox, and Richards, to show that there has been no dearth of good men for the post. At the same time some clubs, who have had good men for every other department of the game, have failed notably in recent years, simply because they could not secure a couple of halves who would pass enough to let their three-quarters show what they were worth. The whole machinery of the passing game breaks down unless the halves are smart and unremitting in starting passes; therefore, if a captain has no better material to start upon, he must try forward after forward at the post, until he finds one who is quick on to the ball, and quicker still in getting rid of it. The first mark of a good half is that he gets the ball when it comes out of the scrummage oftener than his

opponent. In order to do this he must nowadays stand quite close to the scrummage, taking care not to get off-side, and constantly informing himself of the position of the three-quarters, to whom he is to pass the ball the moment he gets it, before his opponent can smother him, provided always that the said three-quarters is on the open side. If he is not favourably placed for this manœuvre, he can either punt into touch or start a run round the back of the scrummage himself, but in all cases his main object should be not to be tackled with the ball. The days of the old half-back, who gained a few yards by sheer force before being held, are over; such a player is now useless to his side, as he spoils all the possibilities of their game.

In the neighbourhood of his own goal a half must be as chary of passing as every one else on his side. The danger of an intercepted pass is then too great to warrant the attempt. In that case his play is to punt into touch until he has removed the game far enough up the ground to be able to pass with impunity; and the further up the ground he gets, the bolder he may safely become. We have so far considered the play of a half who succeeds in getting the ball; no less important to his side is his play when his opponent gets it. It must then be his first endeavour to smother that opponent before he can pass; failing that, to intercept the pass himself, or at least to get into a good position for tackling the three-quarter to whom it has been passed before he can get off. And here we may remark that tackling cannot be done too soon—a runner becomes more and more dangerous as he proceeds. As he passes each line of defence the situation becomes more critical; the forwards therefore must do as much as they can, but still more must be done by the halves, because they can see the ball come out of the scrummage, and can get a clear

start for the man whilst the forwards are still entangled in the scrummage. The amount of tackling done by a half is therefore the second sure criterion of his merits, and second only to that of quickness in picking up and passing.

One other duty falls to the lot of the half-back, namely, that of throwing the ball in from touch; and a great deal can be made of it if it is properly worked out. The half must first learn to throw the ball to any point in the line. There are endless ways of throwing in, and he must practise whichever comes natural to him, until he has reached perfection in the art. He must then look out for the weakest point in the opponent's line-out—experience shows that in spite of exhortations to the contrary, there always is a weak spot or two—it may be at his own end of the line, in which case he can dap it in and get clear away; it may be at the end of the line, when he can drop it into the hands of a fast man, previously told off for that position, who can either get off himself or pass to a back in a better position; or it may be at any other point down the line, in which case he must send it to the man opposite the weak spot. Those who are best at lining-out should look out for such spots and be ready to receive the ball, unless the team adopts the plan of always taking the same places at the line out. As an instance of how much can be done by skilful play at the line out, we may mention that in the last international match played between England and Scotland, we noticed C. Reid standing a little way back from what he rightly judged to be the weakest spot in an English line out near their own goal-line, the half-back dropped the ball exactly at that spot, Reid came right through with a rush and scored a try.

Lastly, just as halves must be careful never to give a fair

catch when meaning to punt into touch, so they must always be on the look-out for taking them when near their opponent's goal. They should never take them near their own goal, unless they feel absolutely certain of being able to dispose of them safely. We once saw a player, evidently of suicidal tendencies, make a fair catch so close to his own goal-posts that he had to retire between them to get his kick, and this against a strong wind.

CHAPTER VIII.

FORWARD.

THE work of a forward can be suitably divided into two branches, play in the open and play in the scrummage. It is given to few—very few—to be equally good at both ; but as every player, however good he may be in the open, has to go into scrummages whether he likes it or not, he can at least learn not to spoil the play of the genuine scrummagers ; and as every scrummager has to make a show in the open, he can learn to follow up and to tackle, even if nature has not intended him to shine in the finer arts of passing and dribbling.

It is only by working on these lines that a captain can hope to overcome the great difficulty of settling what number of each class to have in his team. If he has good men behind, including a pair of halves who know how to pass, he can afford to increase the number of forwards for open play, provided always that he retains a modicum of clever scrummagers who know how to bring the ball out to advantage. If his halves are no good at

passing, he has to trust to his forwards to make the game loose, and he should then aim at a team that can break away in a body with the ball at their feet—perhaps the most irresistible form of attack that has yet been devised. If neither his halves nor his forwards can be taught to make it loose, then he and his three-quarters cannot hope for anything better than a dull season's play, for it is an axiom that cannot be insisted upon too often, that fast open play constitutes real football, the tight game being strictly limited to the crises of defence.

Supposing, first, that the passing game is adopted, forwards must remember that a series of passes is hardly ever brought to a successful issue without their aid. It is true that the half-back will start the passing whilst the scrummage is still breaking up, but directly they can free themselves from the scrummage, it is their business to spread out over the ground at some distance from one another, so as to be ready to take up the passing as soon as the three-quarter gets into difficulties with his opponents.

The grand secret of good passing lies in accurate backing up—the constant passing forward, which is such a nuisance at the present day, is almost invariably the fault of the backer-up. The holder of the ball is bound to pass it into his hands, and if he is only a foot too far forward the game has to be interrupted ; he must, therefore, take the greatest care not to get quite level with the runner, and before he calls for a pass he must take equal care to see that he is in a better position to make headway than the man in possession. Bad passing is entirely due to the neglect of these axioms. Men get an idea into their heads that they ought to pass at all costs, and that they have a right to call for a pass in any position. In the nature of things there must always be a more or less open course on one side or the

other of a runner, and it is in a line with that course that the backer-up should keep; whilst another player must do the same for him as soon as he gets possession of the ball. We have already warned him not to get too far forward; it is equally important that he should not keep far behind, as a long pass back is so much ground lost, which has to be made up again before anything is gained. In ideal passing you may zigzag as much as you please, provided that the general direction is towards the opponent's goal.

If the backing-up is systematically worked, the passing game is quite irresistible in fine weather, but it suffers from the serious disadvantage that it is liable to break down in wet weather or on a greasy ground. Under such circumstances it is very difficult to catch the ball when passed, and it is to meet this case that every team which plays the passing game should also be able to dribble—a good dribbler, such as Jeffrey or Evershed is worth a place in any team; but it is not enough to have one or two good dribblers in the team; for dribbling to be effective there must be combination. By all means let the best dribbler start the ball, if possible, but he must be backed up by all the rest of the forwards in fairly close order, ready to take command of the ball if perchance the leader oversteps it, or if he has to pass it to one side in order to circumvent an opposing back. In this way the ball can be rushed right up to the goal line, but it should be picked up a few yards before the line, so as to make sure of scoring a try.

This is dribbling as it is at present understood; but we can see no reason why a team should not take a lesson from the Association game in this matter, and advance in open line, passing right across the ground when necessary. We admit at once that it is far more difficult to dribble with our oval ball than with their round one; but then we

have nine forwards as against their five, and we can cross the line at any point instead of only between the goal-posts. Moreover, under our off-side laws, it is perfectly legal to pass forward with the foot, provided that the backer-up keeps on-side until the ball has been kicked. On the few isolated occasions when we have seen this plan adopted (notably by Fuller of Cambridge, one of the cleverest players of his day), the opposing backs were so completely non-plused, that we should confidently predict success for any team which adopted it as a system.

A few years ago a proposal was made, in the interests of dribbling, to change the Rugby ball into a round one. It was withdrawn in deference to the opinion of old players, who held that the oval shape was essential for long drop-kicking, which has always been one of the main features of the Rugby game ; but if at any time in the future the change is adopted, we very much doubt whether the passing game, despite its attractions, will hold its own against dribbling. As matters stand now it reigns so supreme that, with a few exceptions, players need very little exhortation to pass, a captain has rather to see that it is not overdone. From the spectator's point of view its popularity is no doubt due to the fact that it affords unlimited scope for combination between the backs and forwards ; good combined play being always prettier to watch than the selfish feats of individuals.

Turning now to the other great branch of forward play, namely, scrummage work, it must not for a moment be supposed that shoving is all that is wanted. It is a great thing no doubt to get the first shove, and for that reason forwards cannot be too quick in packing ; but scrummage work has been of late years reduced to such a science that mere shoving will be of very little avail against a team of

skilled scrummagers. Most teams have recognized leaders in the scrummage, such as J. G. Walker of Oxford, Gurdon of Richmond, and many others, who keep careful watch over the whereabouts of the ball; the usual plan nowadays being to keep it just behind the first row of legs, so as to retain command of it until the opponents have been worked off it to one side or the other, when with a final effort the scrummage is "screwed" or "swung," and the team breaks away with the ball at their feet.

It is not sufficient for a team to be able to screw to one side only, they should be ready to take the line of least resistance, and to ensure this it is essential that all players should have their heads down in order to see for themselves in which direction they are to push, and because they can push with much greater force in that position than when standing up. The great points in scrummage-swinging are then to get command of the ball and to keep it, and for all to push in the same direction. It is no use trying to screw as long as your opponents have command of the ball. You must then use your feet to secure it for yourselves, and devote your energies to stopping your opponents from screwing you. It is for this purpose that a team must contain enough honest workers to be able to hold the scrummage; for if your opponents rush the scrummages the play of your backs is discounted, and you are extremely likely to be beaten. If the forwards find that they cannot take the ball out themselves, they must watch for a good opportunity of letting it out to their half-backs; and unless they are near their own goal, or unless they know that their opponent's backs are much stronger than their own, they should try to get it out in one way or the other as soon as may be. Long scrummages are at all times uninteresting, and when near the opponent's goal are distinctly bad play. For many years

there was a feeling against "heeling out," but we have never been able to understand why it should be wrong to pass back with the foot when it is admitted to be right to pass back with the hand.

It may perhaps be considered that we have already sketched out sufficient work to occupy most of a forward's time ; but there still remain the duties of tackling any and every opponent who happens to be in possession of the ball, of following up every kick-off and kick-out, and of marking his man at every line-out, with which to fill up his spare moments. It will thus be inferred that no one can hope to be a good forward who is not in good training. We are no advocates for stopping a man's beer or his pipe, we do not want the training of an athlete preparing for a race, but we do hold it to be the imperative duty of every member of every team, however humble, to keep in good condition. No doubt some men are much more favourably situated than others for getting regular exercise ; but every man can find time to use light dumb-bells and clubs, to indulge in an occasional bout of boxing and wrestling, and to go for a sharp walk varied by occasional sprints in the evening after his work. We probably all know only too well the inevitable result of neglecting these simple measures. As the game proceeds the forwards become slow at packing, slower still at coming round to the back of the scrummage ; the following up and the tackling become slack, and your stalwarts find themselves beaten by men who are their inferiors in every point of physique and, it may be, of skill in the game.

CHAPTER IX.

THE REFEREE.

THE referee is of comparatively modern growth in the Rugby game; but his powers have been increased so steadily year by year that it is now no exaggeration to say that on him more than on any single individual depends our enjoyment of a match. A few bad decisions by the referee are enough to spoil the game for players and spectators alike. From many points of view the post is a thankless one; and it certainly demands no small degree of love for the game on the part of old players to make them turn out week after week to officiate for teams who are none too prone to take a charitable view of their best endeavours to be prompt and impartial in their decisions. The difficulty which club secretaries have often experienced in securing good referees for their matches is perhaps not much to be wondered at. This difficulty has lately been met in Lancashire and Yorkshire by the creation of referee societies on co-operative principles; that is to say, that any club that sends in the names of some competent referees willing to act under the society's orders, can secure an impartial referee for its own matches by applying to the secretary of the society. We hope to see this principle adopted elsewhere, and especially in London, before another season has passed.

Any man who is willing to undertake the responsibilities of a referee must first be certain that he knows all the laws down to their minutest details, and the interpretation of them in all their bearings. He will be wise to carry a rule-book in his pocket, both for the purpose of refreshing

his own memory before the match begins, and of convincing any captain who questions his interpretations on the field. We hold that every player should read up the laws before each season, but that a referee should study them before every match. Novel and unexpected points arise in almost every game, and it is only by constant study that a referee can hope to be prompt with his decisions ; and unless a decision is given promptly it loses half its effect.

The referee must next realize that considerable activity is required in order to keep level with the ball throughout the game. A referee who strolls after the game in an ulster is quite incompetent to give a decision on any fine point which may arise in the distance. He should always appear in light marching order, wearing a cap rather than a hat, and he must provide against a possible wetting by bringing a change of clothes with him ; if he does his duty well, there is not the slightest fear of his taking a chill during the progress of the game.

As a general rule, the referee should keep in a line between the two sets of goal-posts, as far as is practicable ; if he finds that the direction of the game is forcing him towards either of the touch-lines, he must move round to the other side of the next scrummage that is formed, so as not to lose his vantage-ground for judging dropped goals, which cannot be gauged accurately from the sides, and so as to be ready to reach, at the shortest notice, any part of the ground where a sudden move of the game may call for his presence. At the line-out, Mr. Rowland Hill, our highest authority on all questions of refereeing, is in favour of standing at the touch-line end, so as to keep close watch on the many openings for unfairness which touch-line play affords ; but we are inclined to doubt whether the advantages secured by this departure from the general rule of keeping to the middle

compensate for the bad start which the referee must get from that position whenever the ball is got away quickly from the line-out. He has no doubt been driven to assume the position by the lamentable fact that it is often impossible to put any faith in the impartiality of umpires, who are sometimes nothing more than sixteenth men for their sides. Neutral umpires have been tried with but indifferent success, because they do not feel the responsibility of a referee, and do not take sufficient interest in the game to be keen about giving accurate decisions. The real solution of the difficulty seems to us to lie in abolishing the umpires and in giving the referee the direct control of the whole game. This system is actually in operation in Wales, where it has proved a decided success, and we hope to see it adopted without delay by the Rugby Union Committee, in continuation of their policy of steadily increasing the powers of referees in proportion as practice has made them competent to exercise them. We admit that it is physically impossible for a referee to see every single point that occurs in a game, but every referee knows that he is far more often hampered in giving his decisions by the action of umpires than by his inability to see the points. To those referees who would shrink from the extra responsibility entailed, we would point out that it is a far less invidious thing to decide every point on their own account, than to override decisions already given by the umpire, as they constantly have to do under the present system; and we should imagine that few would hesitate long in choosing between the two evils.

However, until the day comes when umpires have been turned into linesmen, the referee has not only to watch the play but also to watch the umpires' flags; for, excepting in a few cases specially provided for in the laws, he cannot

grant a claim without at least one of their flags being raised. It is worth his while to see that the flags are of a suitable colour, white being far the best, because it is very hard to see a dark flag against the line of spectators at a moment's notice. He should also see that the whistle is one which will carry all over the ground, and he should always blow his hardest. Nothing is more irritating than a feeble whistle.

Practical experience has perhaps made us inclined to dwell more strongly on the drawbacks than on the pleasures of refereeing ; but referees must not forget that they can always rely on the unfaltering support of the Rugby Union Committee, which is fully alive to the difficulties of the work, and which has shown its anxiety to make things easy for them by passing special laws for their guidance and protection, laws to which we attribute largely the undeniable growth of the feeling that a football referee has a right to expect as good treatment as a cricket umpire. The one is as liable to make mistakes as the other. They only undertake to act up to the best of their ability, and, having done so, both have an equal claim to respect for their decisions, whether right or wrong. In football, as in everything else, men must learn to stand by their luck without grumbling.

CHAPTER X.

THE REFORM OF THE LAWS.

THE length and complexity of the Rugby Union laws is an admitted blot upon the game. Owing to the circumstances of their origin, it was necessary that they should at first be largely explanatory, and no small degree of skill

was shown by the original draftsmen in evolving order out of chaos. In the early days of the Union the main object of the players was to learn the laws with a view to observing them in the spirit no less than the letter ; but as time went on a class of players arose, who devoted their studies entirely to the discovery of loopholes for evasion.

The necessity for meeting the evils which ensued by fresh legislation was first fully recognized by A. K. Butterworth of the Marlborough Nomads—one of the ablest captains of his day. With the help of A. Budd and others, he succeeded in getting the more glaring defects remedied ; but for many years no more substantial penalty for foul play than a scrummage on the spot was to be found in the code. At length pressure was brought to bear—especially by the Yorkshire committee—with the result that the referee was officially recognized, and he was given power to inflict the penalty of a free kick (from which, however, no goal could be kicked) for off-side interference. As referees became more competent, they became louder in their demands for increase of power. These demands were backed by authorities in all parts of the country, and in 1888 power was given them to inflict heavy penalties for all the serious forms of foul play known at the time. These changes have resulted in a marked improvement in the game ; and one season's trial has been sufficient to show that the referees were more than justified in their demands..

Meantime the process of improving and simplifying the laws has been going on steadily by piecemeal legislation from the date of the introduction of the word “immediately” into the law for putting the ball down when tackled, to which we have already referred. To take only a few of the more important instances, the method of scoring has been entirely revolutionized. At first it was necessary to score a

goal in order to win a match ; but this system led to so many drawn games that it was made legal to win a match by a majority of tries provided that no goal was scored, but one goal was still paramount over any number of tries. This concession was soon found to be inadequate for cup ties, school house-matches and any other games which it was important to bring to a definite conclusion without delay. Accordingly various schemes for scoring by points were devised for such purposes ; but all proposals to make them into law were resisted by the committee, partly because players of the old school objected to any encroachment upon the sanctity of the goal, whether placed or dropped, partly because of the difficulty of selecting a scheme acceptable to a majority, and still more because all such proposals were tainted by assigning a value to minor points. Minor points are the results of bad play, and, as such, are not to be encouraged. A compromise was eventually accepted, by which three tries were made equal to a goal ; and at the last general meeting the value of a penalty goal was placed half-way between that of an ordinary goal and that of a try. This scale provides sufficient chances for scoring points to make a drawn game improbable, so that there is no longer any excuse for counting minor points even in cup ties ; but in our opinion the ideal scheme would be to count two points for any sort of goal, and one point for a try, whether converted into a goal or not. This would leave a placed goal one point ahead of all others, and would give to a try the value it deserves in the modern game.

All readers of "Tom Brown" will have some idea of the number of technicalities which used to lie between a try and its conversion into a goal. These technicalities it has been the constant aim of the committee to minimize, both by case-law decisions and by special legislation. The cumbrous

alternative of punting out was swept away at one stroke, and the laws were thereby reduced in number from sixty to fifty. At the same time the attacking side were forbidden to charge, and various unfair tactics, which had grown up in connection with the charge, were thereby nipped in the bud, and it was made impossible to score a second good try off a first bad one. Under the old law the nearer to the touch-line the first try was scored, the easier it was to score a second near the goal-posts, which was undoubtedly a blot upon the game. In more recent times the law against bringing a ball out between the posts has been withdrawn, because it was felt that nothing could make things too easy for the wretched place-kicking of the present day; and, lastly, it is no longer necessary to make a mark on the goal-line, whilst the onus of seeing that the ball is brought out at the proper place has been cast upon the defending side, so that everything possible has now been done to avoid a goal being overruled on technical grounds; moreover, if the defending side charge before the ball has touched the ground, the referee can forbid them to charge at all.

The law about mauls has been considerably improved by the removal of all uncertainty as to which side is to have the ball in the end; but we are firmly convinced that mauls should be abolished once for all. We regard a maul as a relic of barbarism which gives a fair opening to the enemy who never tires of advancing the "brute-force" argument against the game. The simplest way of abolishing them would be by making the ordinary laws for tackling apply to cases behind the goal-line. The ball would then be put down directly it was fairly held, and all that the referee would have to decide would be which side was entitled to the possession of it—a far easier task than deciding whether the ball really does touch the ground in the course of a maul or not.

Some years ago the word "deliberately" was cut out of the law relating to knocking on at the line-out, because referees considered that they had enough to do in deciding the facts of the play, without being made judges of men's consciences in addition. Some players were reluctant to adopt this improvement at the time, and still stronger opposition was raised to the recent penalty of a free kick, from which no goal could be scored, for such a knock-on; but, in the opinion of most authorities on the game, it has proved one of the best of the new penalties, because it has worked wonders in stopping the constant interruptions of the game, which the referee found that he had to order, when a scrummage was the only penalty for the offence.

Lastly, the greatest care has been taken to incorporate the principle that a side shall never derive benefit from its own mistakes, by giving the other side the option of not enforcing any penalty which it happens to be to their advantage to forego, and by giving them the choice between a scrummage and a free kick on all occasions when they have a right to the latter, if wind or position makes it desirable to choose the less rather than the greater penalty.

We trust that we have now said enough to show that great improvements have already been made in the laws, but nothing short of entirely recasting the code will suffice to remove the blot of complexity and length to which we referred at the beginning of this chapter. This revision has already been attempted by A. K. Butterworth and by W. Cail, and there are quite enough good draftsmen on the committee to undertake the task with success. They would *inter alia* pick out all the definitions which are now scattered throughout the code, and put them together concisely at the beginning; condense all penalties into a single law, with references to the numbers of the laws for the infringement

of which they could be inflicted, instead of repeating them at the end of each such law ; arrange the surviving laws in their proper sequence, and probably eliminate the whole system of fair catches. The arguments for the retention of fair catches have lost much of their weight since the introduction of penalty free kicks. It is urged on their behalf that they generally act as a punishment for a bad bit of play, and that they produce a pleasing variety in the game ; but now that teams have so many opportunities for claiming free kicks, they can well afford to spare this one, and the penalty kicks provide sufficient variety to satisfy even the most voracious appetite. The danger now is rather that a game may develop into a mere succession of free kicks ; and, as a means of reducing their number, the abolition of fair catches, which are in no way essential to the game, is worthy of consideration.

We feel sure that by working on these lines the laws could be reduced in bulk by a clear half. We can never hope to attain to the brevity of the Association Code, because we have to provide for carrying the ball and for tackling, which are both foreign to their game ; but we might fairly expect to put our code into a shape more worthy of the stability of the laws of the Medes and Persians, and we have no hesitation in predicting that the temporary confusion, which such a revision would cause in the minds of players and referees alike, would be far outweighed by the ultimate gain which would accrue to the game.

CHAPTER XI.

THE EFFECT OF PROFESSIONALISM ON THE RUGBY GAME.

WHEN a few years ago the Rugby Union refused to follow in the footsteps of the sister, and, legitimize professionalism, they stood on the brink of a precipice. It needed but one false step to plunge them into the chasm below, to be driven hither and thither by the eddies of professionalism, and, after a vain struggle maintained for a time, to sink wrecked and wearied beneath the suck of the whirlpool.

But, though well aware of the magnitude of the task before them, they did not shrink from undertaking it, for they well saw the impending danger; and when they resolved to throttle the hydra of professionalism before it was big enough to throttle them, they saved the game from a system which would have begun in degradation, and ended in ruin.

And, now that they have once put their hands to the plough, we can rest assured that they will never pause to rest till they have completed the task before them. For, though so eminent an authority as Mr. Montagu Shearman, in his article on football in the Badminton Series, has prophesied that it is only a question of time, when they have to throw up the sponge in this struggle, I am confident that there is not a single committee-man who shares that view. They know, it is true, that a great deal of latent professionalism exists in the country, but they also know that it is making no headway against them, and they feel certain that they are holding it in check and have it in their grip.

In my opinion, if they only go on as they have begun; if

the same vigilant and loyal co-operation of clubs and county committees, which has been accorded them in the past, be continued in the future ; and if no false sentimentality be allowed to interfere with the rigour of sentences passed on offenders, which should be fearlessly inflicted and with increasing severity, then their ultimate success is assured and professionalism is doomed.

The task before them would, however, be rendered immeasurably lighter if public opinion declared itself unanimously on their side. Professionalism would then, I believe, be an impossibility. I wish, therefore, that every one who has the well-being of the game at heart, would set himself to work out the problem of professionalism, and would consider the effect of its admission on the Rugby game. The deductions to be derived from statistics and history are, to my mind, so plain and so palpable, that none can fail to be convinced of their cogency.

The first question that naturally occurs to one on the threshold of an inquiry into professionalism is, How did there ever come to be such an institution as professionals in any branch of sport? It seems an anomaly that in sport, the true conception of which is a pastime as distinguished from a profession, one should find men engaged in order to earn a livelihood.

I venture to suggest that the anomaly is thus explained. The very essence of athletic sport is the rivalry it engenders. Rivalry in its turn begets a desire for excellence, and excellence in any art mainly depends on the amount of time devoted to the pursuit of it. As the art develops, so the standard of excellence is being continually raised, until at length we reach a perfection which can only be attained by those who devote their whole time and energies to its cultivation. This at last means the devotion of a life ; and

there being but few who can sacrifice their life to sport, which is a pastime without increment, the pastime without an income becomes a profession with one. The sole *raison d'être* of a professional in athletic sport is, I conceive, the excellence which by his agency is attained, and which without his agency would never have been approached. If you eliminate this factor from the calculation, it would be hard indeed to show what other benefit his introduction has worked, while it cannot be denied that he has often and often been the means of importing a corrupt element, which has degraded and impaired the sport of his adoption.

The corollary, which these remarks lead to, furnishes this indisputable axiom, viz. that *cæteris paribus* the man who gives up his whole time and energies to athletics, and makes them his profession, is bound to become the superior of the amateur who follows them as a recreation for his leisure moments.

To see the truth of this practically demonstrated, you have only to turn to our various fields of athletics. What do you find? Why, that except in cricket, amateurs stand no earthly chance with professionals.

The reason that the best amateurs can hold their own with professionals in cricket is that they play just as much cricket as professionals do. *I wish to call most especial attention to the fact that out of the whole category of athletics, this is the one game to which amateurs and professionals devote the same amount of time, and it is the one game in which they are able to compete on terms of equality.*

I especially emphasize this, because I find that cricket is the game which the advocates of professionalism in football invariably cite, in order to show how well the conjoined system of the two classes works. They do not pause to consider why this is so, nor do they seem to realize that if the

best amateur cricketers were only able to play on Saturdays, while professionals played six days in the week, the latter would very soon outclass the former, and the conjunction of the two as competitors become impracticable.

We can now advance a step, and apply our axiom to the Rugby game. The professional is bound to outstrip and leave behind the amateur. We will suppose, for instance, that the Rugby Union have legitimized professionalism. What follows? The amateur will play as he does at present, each Saturday afternoon. His business avocations will prevent his playing oftener, and will not allow him sufficient leisure for anything like regular training. The professional will play, say, three days a week. He has all and every day in which to perfect himself at the game, and get thoroughly fit. A team of professionals, by regular practice together, will become as smoothly co-ordinated as a machine. The amateur will look on the game as affording him exercise and recreation, the professional as providing him with the means of livelihood, which will vanish the moment his form deteriorates, or he is supplanted by a better exponent of the art—contingencies which will be always before his eyes, and cannot fail to act as a perpetual stimulus to excel.

Under such conditions can any one doubt what the result will be? The amateur will be too heavily handicapped to keep on terms, and in a brief period will drop behind outclassed. Old clubs, with splendid records, will gradually recede into obscurity. The interest which formerly surrounded their doings will gradually fade away, and the fickle public will transfer their patronage to their more brilliant rivals. Nothing succeeds like success, and nothing devastates like disaster. Disheartened by defeat, and outclassed in an unequal struggle, amateur clubs will one by one drop away,

until at length Rugby football will be a popular profession, with possibly a shred of amateurs, the sole relics of the past, as an appendage.

Nothing, to my mind, can be more instructive than the course which events have run in the Association game since they sanctioned professionalism. Theories are disputable, facts incontestable; and however strong an opinion in favour of the recognition of professionalism may be entertained by some, they cannot help, after they have read the statistics below, confessing that the wave of professionalism has advanced with astonishing rapidity, and that it has swept amateurism before it in its headlong progress.

The Football Association in 1872 founded a cup competition. This is admittedly the great contest of the year, and all the best clubs of the day are engaged in it. Below I give the names of the clubs left in to contest the final tie since the institution of the cup :—

- 1872. Wanderers and Royal Engineers.
- 1873. Wanderers and Oxford University.
- 1874. Oxford University and Royal Engineers.
- 1875. Royal Engineers and Old Etonians.
- 1876. Wanderers and Old Etonians.
- 1877. Wanderers and Oxford University.
- 1878. Wanderers and Royal Engineers.
- 1879. Old Etonians and Clapham Rovers.
- 1880. Clapham Rovers and Oxford University.
- 1881. Old Carthusians and Old Etonians.
- 1882. Old Etonians and Blackburn Rovers.
- 1883. Blackburn Olympic and Old Etonians.
- 1884. Blackburn Rovers and Queen's Park.
- 1885. Blackburn Rovers and Queen's Park.
- 1886. Blackburn Rovers and West Bromwich Albion.
- 1887. Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion.

1888. West Bromwich Albion and Preston North End.

1889. Wolverhampton Wanderers and Preston North End.

Is it not significant that since the year 1883, no English amateur club has succeeded in getting into the final tie?

In this competition the preliminary ties are classified into districts, so that it is only in the later ones, where the survivors in the different districts are pitted against each other, that a line of comparison can be drawn.

Taking the year 1887-88, I find that in the fifth round, which was the first one in which the victors in districts were shuffled, the Old Carthusians are the only amateur club who qualified for the sixth round as against twelve or thirteen professional clubs.

The victors in the sixth round were the same amateur team and seven professional; the final tie was left to be fought out between two professional elevens.

I find, moreover, that, except the Old Carthusians, not one of the amateur clubs, whose names appear above, has succeeded in more recent years in getting into the semi-final ties.

I find that the most powerful club in England at the present time is Preston North End—an eleven almost entirely composed of professionals, and that the only amateur team which can be pitted against it with any reasonable hope of success is the Corinthians, an eleven composed of the cream of amateur talent, skimmed from a number of clubs.

I find that since the admission of professionalism, numberless clubs have not only sprung into being, but have forced their way into the front rank, displacing their amateur predecessors.

I find that, coincident with their progress, there has been a corresponding decadence of the gentlemen, and that so

rapid has been the rise of the one and the fall of the other, that the question of separating the classes is being mooted by members of the executive.

I find that the foremost professional clubs have banded themselves into a league, an institution which grows and thrives astonishingly, and which, if ever rupture with the Association took place, could very well stand on its own legs and govern professional football.

And I find, coming to the present time, that out of twenty clubs who are already selected to compete for the later stages of the cup in the coming season only two are amateurs—this in a contest to which professionals have only recently been admitted.

It is not often that an advocate can present so vivid an illustration of his theories as these facts present. The whole picture of the rise of professionalism, its progress, and the decadence of amateurism is placed before you by these data.

And these, you must bear in mind, are but the early days of professionalism. The child scarcely knows that he is born yet, but if his growth in the future fulfils the promises of the past, I do not hesitate to say that “amateurism” has a very rough time before it.

My contention being, then, that Rugby would become mainly, if not exclusively, a professional game, if professionalism were recognized, it is in the highest degree important to pause and consider what has been the fate of other branches of athletics where professionals have predominated or had an independent existence.

Without exception the corrupt element has invariably in time gained the upper hand, and has crippled and depraved the sport, or killed it outright.

English professional rowing, once the best in the world,

is at the present time as dead as mutton, and its death-blow was administered when bookmakers became backers, and men had to row to order and not to win.

Professional running and walking, in years gone by a thriving and popular sport, has sunk to so low an ebb that if a few Sheffield speculators were to discontinue their handicaps, which afford an admirable machine for betting, it would be a corpse to-morrow. The cause of decay is precisely the same. Every sprinter has his "gaffer," and it is only when it suits his pocket that he must win.

Even now thousands of pounds are betted on an important football match. Already a large army of bookmakers and bettors attend the great matches of the year. Is there any reason for supposing that the football professional would be a purer being than his compeer in other branches, and would remain impervious to such surroundings? Certainly not. You would find no doubt that you have attained by his admission a hitherto unprecedented excellence, that you are able to draw great gates; but you would assuredly find that unless your amateurs were able to retain their equality with them, and keep them pure by their intervention, football would not escape the depravity which has tarnished and degraded every other branch of professional sport, and led in the end to their disrepute and decadence.

I put forth these views, though less elaborately, some years ago, and they were criticised by Mr. Shearman in his article in the Badminton Series in the following terms:—

"We venture to differ from Mr. Budd, because in cricket, the one sport, so far as we know, in which amateurs and professionals have always joined in common, the conjunction has both kept professionalism pure and has improved the form of the gentlemen, without in the least causing them to find themselves outclassed, and so desert the game.

It would be strange indeed were gentlemen to desert a game as soon as they met with a reverse from the players. But, apart from this, we think the Rugby Union authorities are wrong for quite different reasons. Were gentlemen forced by any rule to meet opponents whom they disliked, we could well agree with him; but no club need ever play with any clubs but those it chooses. Nor in the Rugby game, where there is no national cup tie, is there any moral obligation for a club of gentlemen to meet any crack club of 'players' to try conclusions.

"Surely, on the other hand, if the Yorkshire clubs prefer to play with or against professional teams, they should be left at liberty to do so. Nor will the edicts of the Union prevent professionals from playing Rugby football, if once there is a genuine movement in that direction in the country. The houses of Lancaster and Tudor in vain tried to suppress football; and the efforts of the Rugby Union will be equally vain to suppress professionalism, if it once begins to pay. The effect of such legislation would only be to drive the movement beneath the surface; and we must still confess that we prefer a man who plays for money and says that he does so, to a 'gentleman' who receives liberal sums for expenses. However, at present there are very few who have any opportunity of making money out of Rugby football, and it will doubtless be well for the sport if the case ever remain so. So far we are in sympathy with the Rugby Union; but if ever more money can be made out of the 'gates' of matches than the clubs know what to do with, professionalism either open or secret there will assuredly be. Until that time shall come the Rugby Union regulations against professionalism are *bruta fulmina*, and will, in our opinion, remain so."

It will be noticed that Mr. Shearman falls into the common

error of drawing a parallel from cricket, whereas, as I have already shown, no parallel exists.

Cricket is a game which occupies three days, football one hour and a half. The success of the conjunction of the two classes is, I repeat, due to the fact that gentlemen by playing as much as professionals are able to retain their equality. In football such a state of things could not exist. If the equality could be preserved, I admit that one of the great objections to professionalism would be at once removed.

Mr. Shearman next contends that professionals are a harmless institution, because amateurs need not play them, unless they care to. I very much doubt whether he would have written this remark if he were writing his article to-day, and had carefully studied the progress of events in the Association game during the last two years. It is no news to us that amateurs can choose their own competitors, but the question is, What sort of a field they would have left to make their selection from? Nothing, I take it, but the residuum of decayed amateurism, the skeleton which the havoc of professionalism had spared.

Mr. Shearman is, of course, entitled to his own opinion as to the probable upshot of the present struggle. I do not share his gloomy forebodings. That the regulations, however, of the Rugby Union are not mere *bruta fulmina* is amply testified by the vigorous proceedings which in the last two years have been taken against the suspects, and the suspensions and penalties which have followed. He is further entirely in error when he supposes that there are no clubs who derive more money out of gates than they know what to do with. The Bradford club is richer than the Rugby Union, and the bank-books of many Northern clubs would show a balance of hundreds. According to Mr.

Shearman's theory, professionals ought to have grown from these balances, but we know that they have not.

To go back once more, if professionalism, as I contend must be the case, became when admitted predominant, a new executive would necessarily ensue, and the present tried and experienced rulers, who have successfully steered the Union through her troubles for many years and succeeded in preserving the traditions which were entrusted to their keeping, would be supplanted by a wholly new order of men, who would not feel themselves fettered by the history of the past, and whose policy it would be impossible to foretell.

There is, however, a totally different standpoint from which I condemn professionalism in football.

It is not a game like cricket, which affords sufficient occupation to justify the devotion of a man's entire time to it. Three days a week is as much as anybody can play, and then only for an hour and a half at a stretch. This brings the total of the week's play to four and a half hours. Allowing for training and practice in addition to this, the greater part of a man's time would still remain unutilized. The profession of football, then, means a life of idleness while it lasts. But it is also a game at which a man cannot play for many years, and after his career is finished it leads to absolutely nothing ; so that the superannuated professor, when his short day of activity is over, finds himself stranded without resources and has to begin life over again to get his bread.

I have striven in the foregoing pages to point out the dangers of professionalism. From every standpoint I contend that its admission is indefensible.

One and one advantage only would you obtain by its recognition, viz. improved play, but you would obtain it at the expense of amateurism and the sacrifice of purity.

Excellence is a desideratum, but a very minor one, as compared with purity, for history teaches no more important lesson than that the prosperity and sometimes even the existence of every branch of sport has been dependent on its ability to resist the introduction of a corrupt element into its constitution.

And, after all, what is there so fine in being able, by offering the biggest bribe, to collect an invincible team from the four quarters of the globe? It flatters the vanity of some no doubt to form a victorious team, but I fail to see that in the hiring of champion professionals the element of true sport comes in any more than in the case of the circus proprietor who engages the best available talent for the season by paying the highest salaries.

I believe that this is the most momentous question which the Rugby Union have ever had to consider, and that on their firmness and determination depends the future of the game. No body of rulers has ever displayed these qualities more conspicuously than they have in the past, and I conclude with the earnest hope that both they and every football player will recollect that a great game with magnificent traditions is not a fit subject for experiment, and that they will not hesitate, as opportunity offers, to place their heel on an innovation which will impair the vitality and tarnish the unsullied reputation of the Rugby game.

APPENDIX.



THE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION.

BYE-LAWS.

1. That the name of the Society be "THE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION," and that its head-quarters be in London, where all General Meetings shall be held.

2. That the Officers, who shall be elected annually, consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, Hon. Secretary, and Treasurer, and a Committee of fifteen, with power to add to their number : seven to form a quorum. All past Presidents of the Union shall be *ex-officio* Members of the Committee who have during the year preceding such annual election attended at least two Committee Meetings to which they have been summoned. No past President shall be entitled to vote on the selection of teams unless he has been chosen to act on the Sub-Committee elected for that purpose.

3. That any Club willing to conform to the Rules of the Union be eligible for membership, but before being admitted, such Club must be duly proposed and seconded by two Clubs belonging to the Union.

4. That the Annual Subscription, payable in advance, of each Club belonging to the Union, be £1 1s., with an Entrance Fee of £1 1s., payable on admission. The Annual Subscriptions of all Clubs shall fall due in October. Any Club whose Subscription has not been paid before or at the General Meeting in March, shall be struck off the Union List.

5. That two General Meetings be held annually, one in the month of March, for the consideration of the Bye-laws and Laws, and the other in the month of October, for the election of officers for the ensuing year, and other business.

6. That all officers be elected by ballot.

7. That each Club be entitled to send one representative only to a General Meeting, exclusive of the Officers of the Union.

8. That the Hon. Sec. shall convene a Special General Meeting at any time on receiving a requisition to that effect, signed by the Captains or Secretaries of not less than five Clubs belonging to the Union.

9. That no Bye-law or Law of the Game shall be altered, rescinded, or added to, without the consent of at least two-thirds of those present at a General Meeting.

10. That each Club be furnished with a copy of the Bye-laws and Laws of the Game, and be bound thereby ; and in case of wilful infringement thereof by any Club, such Club be liable to expulsion from the Union, at a General Meeting.

11. That notice of any amendment or alteration either in the Laws of the Game or the Bye-laws of the Union, together with the names of the proposer and seconder of every such amendment or alteration, be given in writing to the Hon. Sec. *three weeks* at least before the General Meeting at which such amendment or alteration is to be brought forward, and be duly advertised *fourteen days* at least before such meetings, and notice thereof sent to the Clubs belonging to the Union.

12. That the accounts be audited, and a printed balance-sheet sent to each Club belonging to the Union, together with the notices calling the General Meeting in October.

THE LAWS OF THE GAME OF FOOTBALL, AS PLAYED BY THE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION.

1. A DROP KICK is made by letting the ball fall from the hands, and kicking it the *very instant* it rises.

2. A PLACE KICK is made by kicking the ball after it has been placed in a nick made in the ground for the purpose of keeping it at rest.

3. A PUNT is made by letting the ball fall from the hands and kicking it *before* it touches the ground.

4. Each GOAL shall be composed of two upright posts, exceeding 11 feet in height from the ground, and placed 18 feet 6 inches apart, with a cross-bar 10 feet from the ground.

5. A GOAL can only be obtained by kicking the ball from the field of play direct (*i.e.* without touching the ground, or the dress or person of any player of either side) over the cross-bar

of the opponent's goal, whether it touches such cross-bar or the posts or not ; but if the ball goes directly over either of the goal-posts, it is not a goal. A goal may be obtained by any kind of kick except a *punt*.

6. A TRY is gained when a player touches the ball down in his opponent's goal.

7. A match shall be decided by a majority of points ; a goal shall equal three points, with the exception of a goal kicked from a kick awarded by way of penalty, which shall equal two points, and a try one point. If the number of points be equal, or no goal be kicked or try obtained, the match shall be drawn. When a goal is kicked from a try the goal only is scored.

8. The ball is *dead* when it rests absolutely motionless on the ground.

9. A TOUCH-DOWN is when a player, putting his hand upon the ball on the ground in goal, stops it so that it remains dead, or fairly so.

10. A TACKLE is when the holder of the ball is held by one or more players of the opposite side.

11. A SCRUMMAGE takes place when the holder of the ball, being in the field of play, puts it down on the ground in front of him, and all who have closed round on their respective sides endeavour to push their opponents back, and by kicking the ball to drive it in the direction of the opposite goal-line. A scrummage ceases to be a scrummage when the ball is in touch or goal.

12. A player may *take up* the ball whenever it is rolling or bounding, except in a scrummage.

13. It is not lawful to take up the ball when dead (except in order to bring it out after it has been touched-down in touch or in goal) for any purpose whatever ; whenever the ball shall have been so unlawfully taken up it shall at once be brought back to where it was so taken up, and there put down.

14. In a scrummage, it is not lawful to touch the ball with the hand under any circumstance whatever. If, in the opinion of the Referee, any player shall, in a scrummage, intentionally either handle the ball or fall down, he shall, on a claim from the opposite side, award a free-kick, such free-kick to be taken in accordance with Law 44.

15. It is lawful for any player who has the ball to run with it, and if he does so it is called a RUN. If a player runs with the ball until he gets behind his opponent's goal-line and there touches it down, it is called a RUN-IN.

16. It is lawful to *run-in* anywhere across the goal-line.

17. The goal-line is in goal, and the touch-line is in touch.

18. In the event of any player holding or running with the ball being tackled, and the ball fairly held, he must at once cry *down*, and immediately put it down. If, in the opinion of the Referee, he has not immediately put the ball down, or if he being on the ground has not immediately got up, he shall, on a claim from the opposite side, award a free-kick, such free-kick to be taken in accordance with Law 44.

19. A MAUL IN GOAL is when the ball is held inside the goal-line and one of the opposing side endeavours to touch it down. Those players only who are touching the ball with the hand when the maul begins, and then for so long only as they retain their touch, may continue in the maul. The ball shall be touched-down, where the maul is concluded, and shall belong to the players of the side who first had possession of it before the maul began, unless the opposite side have gained entire possession of it, or unless it has escaped from the hold of all parties engaged, in which latter event it shall belong to the defending side.

20. TOUCH IN GOAL. (See Plan.) Immediately the ball, whether in the hands of a player or not, goes into touch in goal, it is at once *dead* and out of the game, and must be brought out as provided by Laws 37 and 38.

21. Every player is ON-SIDE, but is put OFF-SIDE if he enters a scrummage from his opponent's side, on being in a scrummage gets in front of the ball, or when the ball has been kicked, touched, or is being run with by any of his own side behind him (*i.e.* between himself and his own goal-line). No player can be off-side in his own goal.

22. A player being *off-side* is put *on-side* when the ball has been run five yards with, or kicked by, or has touched the dress or person of, any player of the opposite side, or when one of his own side has run in front of him either with the ball or having kicked it when behind him.

23. Every player when off-side is out of the game, and shall not touch the ball in any case whatever, or in any way interrupt or obstruct any player until he is again on-side. In case any player wilfully touches the ball when he is off-side, the opposite side may claim either (1) a free-kick, such free-kick to be taken in accordance with Law 44 where such off-side play occurred ; or (2) a scrummage at the spot where the ball was last played before the offence occurred.

When any player *has the ball*, none of the opponents who are off-side may run, or attempt to tackle, or otherwise interrupt

such player, until he has run five yards or taken his kick. But if any player when off-side tackles, or in any way interferes with an opponent who has the ball before such opponent has run five yards or taken his kick, the opposite side may claim either (1) a free-kick, such free-kick to be taken in accordance with Law 44 ; or (2) a scrummage at the spot where the ball was last played before the offence occurred.

24. THROWING BACK. It is lawful for any player who has the ball to throw it back towards his own goal, or to pass it back to any player of his own side, who is at the time behind him, in accordance with the rules of *on-side*.

25. KNOCKING ON, *i.e.* hitting the ball with the hand, and THROWING FORWARD, *i.e.* throwing the ball, in the direction of the opponent's goal-line are not lawful. If the ball be either *knocked on* or *thrown forward*, the opposite side may (unless a fair catch has been made as provided by the next rule) require to have it brought back to the spot where it was so *knocked* or *thrown on*, and there put down.

Unless it be knocked on from a throw out of touch, when *vide* Law 30.

26. A FAIR CATCH is a catch made direct from a kick or a *throw forward*, or a *knock on* by one of the *opposite* side, provided the catcher makes a mark with his heel at the spot where he has made the catch, and no other of his *own* side touch the ball.

A player who has on a claim been awarded a fair catch, must thereupon himself either take a drop-kick or punt, or place the ball for a place-kick ; such kick in any case to be made in the direction of the opponent's goal-line. If the player retires behind his own goal-line for the purpose of taking such kick, the ball must be kicked across such goal-line in the direction of the opponent's goal-line.

After a *fair catch* has been made, the opposite side may come up to the catcher's mark, and the catcher's side retiring, the ball shall be kicked from such mark, or from a spot any distance behind it, in a straight line, parallel with the touch-lines.

27. TOUCH. (See Plan.) If the ball goes into *touch*, a player on the side other than that whose player last touched-in in the field of play must bring it to the spot where it crossed the touch-line ; or if a player when running with the ball cross or put any part of either foot across the touch-line, he must return with the ball to the spot where the line was so crossed, and thence return it into the field of play in one of the modes provided by the following Law.

28. He must then himself, or by one of his own side, either (1) bound the ball in the field of play and then run with it, kick it, or throw it back to his own side ; or (2) throw it out at right angles to the touch-line ; or (3) walk out with it at right angles to the touch-line, any distance not less than *five* or more than *fifteen* yards, and there put it down, first declaring how far he intends to walk out.

29. If two or more players holding the ball are pushed into *touch*, the ball shall belong *in touch* to the player who first had hold of it in the field of play, and has not released his hold of it.

30. If the ball be not thrown out straight, the opposite side *may* at once claim to bring it out themselves, as in Law 28, sec. 3.

If on a throw-out from touch the ball shall be knocked on, the opposite side may claim either (1) a free-kick, such free-kick to be taken in accordance with Law 44 at the spot where the knock on occurred, such free-kick not to count a goal ; or (2) a scrummage at the spot where the knock on occurred.

31. A catch made when the ball is thrown out of touch is not a *fair catch*.

32. KICK-OFF is a place-kick from the centre of the field of play, and cannot count as a goal. The opposite side must stand at least *ten yards* in front of the ball until it has been kicked. If the ball pitch in touch, the opposite side *may* claim to have it kicked-off again. The kicker's side must be behind the ball when kicked-off, and in case of infringement the Referee shall, on a claim by the opposite side, order a scrummage to be formed in the centre of the ground.

33. The ball shall be *kicked-off* (1) at the commencement of the game ; (2) after a goal has been obtained ; (3) after a change of goals at half-time.

34. Each side shall play from either goal for an equal time.

35. The captains of the respective sides shall toss up before the commencement of the match ; the winner of the toss shall have the option of choice of goals, or the kick-off.

36. Whenever a goal shall have been obtained, the side which has lost the goal shall then kick-off. When goals have been changed at half-time, the side which did not kick-off at the commencement of the game shall then kick-off.

37. KICK-OUT is a drop kick by one of the players of the side which has had to touch the ball down in their own goal or into whose touch in goal the ball has gone (Law 20), and is the mode of bringing the ball again into play, and cannot count as a goal. (See Law 40.)

38. KICK-OUT must be a *drop-kick*, and from not more than *twenty-five yards* outside the kicker's goal-line ; if the ball when kicked out pitch in touch, the opposite side *may* claim to have it kicked-off again. If the kick be not a drop-kick, or if the kick be from more than twenty-five yards outside the kicker's goal-line, or if the kicker's side be not behind the ball when kicked-out, the Referee shall, on a claim by the opposite side, either order another kick-out, or order the ball to be scrummaged at a spot twenty-five yards from the kicker's goal-line, and equidistant from both the touch-lines ; and the opposite side may not obstruct such kicker within twenty-five yards of his own goal-line.

39. A side having touched the ball down in their opponent's goal, shall try at goal by a place-kick in the following manner : One of the players shall bring it up to the goal-line in a straight line (parallel to the touch-lines) from the spot where it was touched-down, and thence walk out with it in a line parallel to the touch-lines such distance as he thinks proper, and there place it for another of his side to kick.

40. The defending side may charge as soon as the ball touches the ground, but if any of them do charge before the ball touches the ground, the Referee may, provided the kicker has not taken his kick, and then only on a claim by the kicker's side, disallow the charge, and the kicker's side must remain behind the ball until the try has been decided. If a goal be kicked, the game shall proceed as provided in Law 36, but if a goal be not kicked, or if the bringer-out allow any of his side to touch the ball before it has been kicked, the ball shall be dead forthwith, and the game shall proceed by a kick-out, as provided in Law 38.

41. CHARGING, *i.e.* rushing forward to kick the ball or tackle a player, is lawful for the opposite side, in all cases of a *place-kick* after a *fair catch* or upon a *try at goal*, immediately the ball touches or is placed on the ground ; and in cases of a *drop-kick* or *punt* after a *fair catch*, as soon as the player having the ball commences to run or offers to kick, or the ball has touched the ground ; but he may always draw back, and unless he has dropped the ball or actually touched it with his foot, they must again retire to his mark (see Law 43). But if any of the opposite side do charge before the player having the ball commences to run, or offers to kick, or the ball has touched the ground, the Referee may, provided the kicker has not taken his kick, and then only on a claim by the opposite side, disallow the charge. Except in a scrummage, it is not lawful for

a player to charge against or obstruct any opponent, unless such opponent is holding the ball, or such player is himself running at the ball.

42. In the event of a player illegally tackling, charging, or obstructing any opponent, the Referee shall, on a claim from the opposite side, award a free-kick at the spot where the offence took place, such free-kick to be taken in accordance with Law 44.

But if, in the opinion of the Referee, on a claim from the opposite side, a try would undoubtedly have been gained but for unfair play or interference of the defending side, he shall adjudge such try. On the other hand, if, in his opinion, a try would undoubtedly not have been gained but for unfair play or interference of the attacking side, he shall, on a claim by the opposite side adjudge a touch-down. The kick in case of a try shall be taken at any point on the line passing through the spot where the ball was when such unfair play or interference took place, parallel with the touch line.

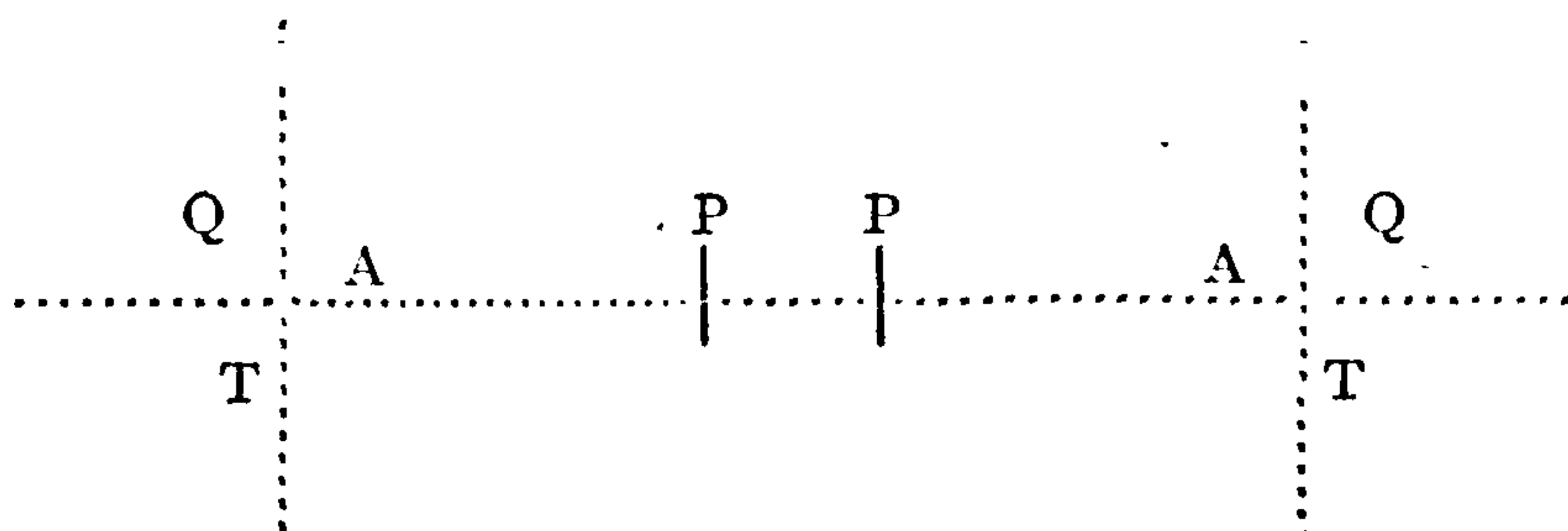
43. In case of a *fair catch*, the opposite side may come up to and *charge* from anywhere on or behind a line drawn through the mark made and parallel to the goal-line. In *all* cases the kicker's side must be behind the ball when it is kicked, but may not *charge* until it has been kicked. In case of any infringement the Referee shall, on a claim by the opposite side, order a scrummage to be formed at the spot where the *fair catch* was made. If after a *fair catch* more than one player of the attacking side touch the ball before it is again kicked, the opposite side may *charge* forthwith.

44. A free-kick awarded by way of penalty shall be taken by either a drop, punt, or place-kick, and by any member of the side to which it has been awarded. In all other respects the kick shall be taken in the manner prescribed for fair catches in Law 26, it being understood that the place whence the kicker is entitled to take his kick shall be regarded as the mark of a player who has made a fair catch.

45. If, in the opinion of the Referee, a player shall have been guilty of rough or foul play, he shall, in his discretion, either caution him for the first offence or warn him off without any caution, but always on a second offence it shall be his duty to warn off the offender, and in every case to forthwith report the occurrence to the Rugby Union Committee, who shall, in their discretion, suspend the offender, and any Club which plays with with or against him during suspension, for such period as they think fit.

46. If a player shall kick, pass, or carry the ball back across his goal-line and it there be made dead, the opposite side may claim that the ball shall be brought back and a scrummage formed at the spot whence it was kicked, passed, or carried back. Under any other circumstances a player may touch the ball down in his own goal.

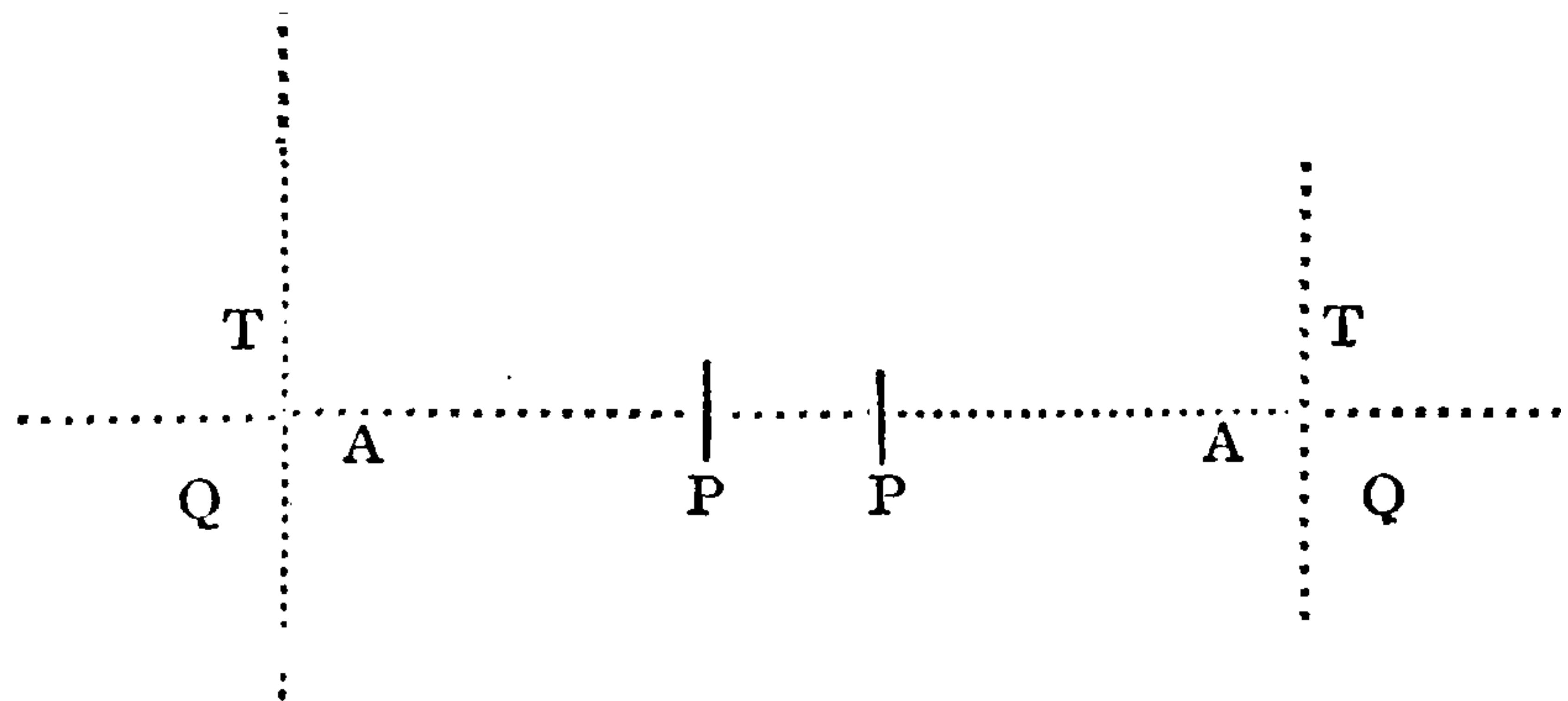
PLAN OF THE FIELD.



TOUCH

THE FIELD
OF
PLAY.

TOUCH



AA.AA. ... Goal Lines.
 TT.TT. ... Touch Lines.
 PP.PP. ... Goal Posts.
 QQ.QQ. ... Touch in Goal.

The Touch Lines and Goal Lines should be cut out of the turf.

The field of play should not exceed 110 yards in length, nor 75 yards in breadth, and should be as near those dimensions as practicable.

47. NO HACKING, OR HACKING OVER, or tripping up, shall be allowed under any circumstances. No one wearing projecting nails, iron plates, or gutta percha on any part of his boots or shoes shall be allowed to play in a match.

48. In the case of any law being broken, or any irregularity of play occurring on the part of either side not otherwise provided for, the opposite side may claim that the ball be taken back to the place where the breach of the law or irregularity of play occurred, and a scrummage formed there.

49. In all Matches two Umpires shall be appointed and a Referee ; the latter official must be chosen with the consent of either the respective Secretaries or Captains of the contending Clubs or bodies. If the Captains of either side challenge the construction placed upon any Law, he shall have the right of appeal to the Rugby Union Committee.

Subject to this right of appeal it shall be the duty of the Referee to report immediately to the Rugby Union Committee any player who disputes any of his decisions ; and the Rugby Union Committee shall, in their discretion, suspend the offender, and any Club which plays with or against him during suspension, for such period as they shall think fit.

50. Neither Half-time nor No-Side shall be called until the ball is fairly held or goes out of play, and in the case of a try or fair catch, the kick at goal *only* shall be allowed.

REGULATIONS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF UMPIRES AND REFEREES.

*Adopted at Rugby Union Meeting, October, 1886, and amended
at subsequent Meetings.*

1. In all Matches two Umpires shall be appointed and a Referee ; the latter official must be chosen with the consent of either the respective Secretaries or Captains of the contending Clubs or bodies.

2. In any Match each Umpire must carry a stick, and the Referee must be provided with a whistle.

If either Umpire raises his stick on an appeal, it will be taken that he allows it ; if he does not raise his stick, it shall be taken that he disallows it.

Whenever one stick is raised and not both, the Referee shall, if he allows the appeal, immediately blow his whistle, without

waiting to confer as to the point in dispute with the Umpire who has not raised his stick, and the game shall be immediately stopped.

If, on the contrary, the Referee does not immediately blow his whistle, it shall be taken that he disallows the appeal, and the game shall proceed as though no appeal had been made, without any further consultation.

Whenever both sticks are raised, the Referee, except in cases left to his own discretion, shall signify the allowance of the appeal, and stop the game forthwith by blowing his whistle.

3. *Appeals* must be made immediately after the points occur which cause them, otherwise they cannot be entertained by the Umpires and Referee. Decisions may be given on more than one point if appeals are made at the proper moment.

4. The Umpires must not interfere in the game unless appeals are made to them.

5. The Referee must not interfere except on an appeal to the Umpires otherwise than in the following cases :—

(a) At “kick-off,” when it shall be his duty to see that the players on the side which has the “kick-off” are not in front of the ball when it is kicked-off.

(b) At “kick-out,” when it shall be his duty to see that the kicker’s side are behind the ball when kicked-out.

(c) In the case of a fair catch, when it shall be his duty to see that the kicker’s side are behind the ball when it is kicked.

In the event of players (in his opinion) breaking the law on any of these points, he shall, on a claim by the opposite side, order a scrummage to be formed in the case of “kick-off” in the centre of the ground, and in case of “kick-out” at a spot twenty-five yards from the kicker’s goal-line, and equi-distant from both the touch-lines, and in the case of a fair catch at the spot where the fair catch was made.

(d) In the case of a try at goal, and of all free-kicks, if any of the defending side charge before the ball touches the ground, he may, provided the kicker has not taken his kick, on a claim by the opposite side, disallow the charge.

(e) If in the opinion of the Referee any player shall in a scrummage intentionally handle the ball, or fall down, or if he, being on the ground, has not immediately got up again, he shall, on a claim by the opposite side, award a free-kick.

(f) In the event of any player illegally tackling, charging,

or obstructing any opponent, the Referee shall, on a claim by the opposite side, award a free-kick at the spot where the offence took place.

(g) If, in the opinion of the Referee, on a claim by the opposite side, a try would undoubtedly have been gained but for the unfair play or interference of the defending side, he shall adjudge such try. On the other hand, if, in his opinion, a try would undoubtedly not have been gained but for the unfair play or interference of the attacking side, he shall, on a claim from the opposite side, adjudge a touch-down.

(h) If, in the opinion of the Referee, any player, when he has been tackled and the ball held, has not immediately put the ball down, he shall, on a claim by the opposite side, award a free-kick at the spot where the offence occurred.

(i) The Referee shall signify the granting of a fair catch by blowing his whistle, without further claim than the heel-mark (see Law 26). If the whistle is not promptly blown, it must be taken that the claim is not granted.

In all cases when a claim has once been made for a fair catch or free-kick, it must be taken, if granted by the Referee.

(j) If, in the opinion of the Referee, the ball when dead has been unfairly brought into play, he shall order a scrummage to be re-formed.

In all the above cases a claim from the opposite side is necessary, but not through the Umpires.

6. In the following cases the Referee may interfere without any claim being made, and without reference to the Umpires :—

(a) If, in the opinion of the Referee, a player shall have been guilty of rough or foul play, he shall, in his discretion, either caution him for the first offence, or warn him off without any caution, but in every case on a second offence it shall be his duty to warn off the offender, and to forthwith report the occurrence to the Rugby Union Committee.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Referee to report immediately to the Rugby Union Committee any player who disputes any of his decisions, except Captains acting with the rights given them in Law 49.

(c) When a player is *down* in a scrummage, and the Referee considers it dangerous for the game to proceed, it shall

be his duty to order the game to stop until he thinks the danger is over.

7. The Referee shall be time-keeper, and his decision on any question of "Time" shall be final, and he shall have power at his absolute and sole discretion to allow extra time for any delays that may take place.

8. The ball is dead whenever it touches an Umpire or Referee, and a scrummage shall be formed forthwith at the spot where the touching occurs, but it is not dead simply because a player holding the ball touches an Umpire or Referee.

9. In case Umpires and a Referee are not appointed in accordance with Law 49, the Rugby Union may refuse to entertain any disputes on points of Umpiring.

The following was issued by the Committee on Nov. 12th, 1886 :—

"The Committee find that the practice of Umpires interfering in the game, without appeals being made to them, is so prevalent, that they deem it necessary to call the attention of Players and Umpires to Rule 4, Regulations for the guidance of Umpires and Referees, which is as follows: '*The Umpires must not interfere in the game unless appeals are made to them.*' In order to assist the Referee in seeing when appeals are granted by the Umpires, the Committee strongly recommend that flags should be used by them in the place of sticks."

Attention is especially called to the following new points, viz. :—

1. Wing-players must be dealt with under the new penalties for off-side play (Law 23), and for illegal charging (Law 42), if their play comes under those heads; or under the new penalties for rough play (Law 45), if necessary.

2. The new penalties for rough play (Law 45), and for disputing the Referee's decisions (Law 49) are to be inflicted at the sole discretion of the Referee without any claim being necessary.

3. The new penalties for (a) handling the ball or falling down in scrummage (Law 14); (b) illegal tackling and charging (Law 42); (c) tries vitiated by unfair play (Law 42); (d) delay in putting the ball down and getting up himself (Law 18); (e) bringing the ball into play unfairly after it has been dead: are all to be inflicted at the sole discretion of the Referee without reference to the Umpires, provided that a claim is made by the opposite side.

4. The new penalties for off-side (Law 23) for knock on from a throw out of touch (Law 30) and for kicking dead balls

(Law 46) will come through the Umpires in the ordinary way.

5. All free-kicks awarded by way of penalty may now be converted into goals, except the free-kick for a knock on from a throw out of touch.

6. The ball must now be brought out for a try at goal in a straight line from the spot where it was touched-down, whether between the posts or not.

7. In the future, the Referee will grant fair catches by blowing his whistle without reference to the Umpires, and without any further claim being necessary besides the heel-mark (*vide* Law 26). If, therefore, the whistle is not blown forthwith it must be taken that the claim is not granted. When once a claim for a fair catch or free-kick has been made it must be taken, if granted by the Referee.

CASE LAW.

Points of Interest decided by the Rugby Union Committee.

In the case of an appeal to an Umpire play shall not cease pending a decision.

A player who is off-side may nevertheless run until an opponent actually has the ball, but must stop directly he has it.

A fair catch can only be made direct from an opponent's kick, knock-on, or throw forward, and not from a rebound.

A player can score a try by touching the ball down in goal, even though the ball be dead before he reaches it.

To secure a try the ball must be touched-down by the hand.

It is lawful to make a fair catch from kick-out or kick-off.

Leather or other projections on boots in the nature of spikes are illegal.

The corner flags are in touch in goal, and the intermediate touch-flags are in touch ; the ball is therefore in touch in goal or in touch, as the case may be, if it strikes them.

Since it is the object in a throw out of touch to land the ball at right angles to the touch-line, a ball thrown out crooked to allow for the wind, but eventually pitching straight, is a straight throw. On the other hand, a ball thrown out straight, but subsequently diverted by the wind, is not a straight throw.

A player, provided that he is not carrying the ball—

(a) may be in touch and yet play the ball with his feet, so long as the ball itself is not in touch.

(*b*) may be in touch in goal and yet score a try by touching the ball down, so long as the ball is not in touch in goal.

The ball is in touch if it crosses the touch-line and is then blown back into play. A goal is scored if the ball crosses the bar and is then blown back into play.

A try can be obtained by touching-down a ball which is motionless behind the goal-line.

So long as a player has one hand on the ball he may remain in a maul in goal.

The placer of the ball for a kick at goal shall not be included in the "kicker's side," who must remain behind the ball until the try has been decided.

In the case of an illegal charge before the ball has been placed on the ground for a kick at goal, the Referee may, if he has whistled before the kicker has taken his kick, allow the ball to be placed anew, and prohibit the defenders from charging, whether the kicker has taken his kick subsequent to his whistling or not; but if the kicker has taken his kick before the whistle has been blown, the Referee cannot allow him a second kick.

The game shall be stopped whenever the Referee blows his whistle, even though he infringes the Regulations in doing so.

In the case of appeals being made on more than one point, the second appeal can only be entertained when the first is disallowed, except in the case of a "knock on" out of touch, when if a fair catch is made a "free-kick" may be taken, even though a claim for a "knock on" had been granted.

The Referee's decision as to time is final, even though he has kept it inaccurately.

The ball is dead if it strikes an Umpire or Referee, but not when a player running with it collides with an Umpire or Referee.

REGULATIONS AUTHORIZED BY THE RUGBY UNION ON COUNTY QUALIFICATIONS.

1. A man may play—

(*a*) For the county in which he was born, or

(*b*) For the county in which he has resided for the six months previous to the time of playing, or

(*c*) For the county in which he is residing at school or college at the time of playing, or

(*d*) For the county for which he played in season 1887-1888.

2. A man shall still be qualified to play for a county, having

previously qualified for and played for that county for three seasons, and not having subsequently played for any other county.

3. No man shall play for more than one county during the same season.

4. Should any question arise as to qualifications, the same shall be left to the decision of the Rugby Union Committee.

RULES AS TO PROFESSIONALISM.

Adopted at Rugby Union Meeting, October, 1886, and amended at subsequent Meetings.

1. Professionalism is illegal.

2. A Professional is :—

(a) Any player who shall receive from his Club, or any Member of it, any money consideration whatever, actual or prospective, for services rendered to the Club of which he is a Member.

NOTE.—This sub-section is to include any money consideration paid or given to any playing Member, whether as Secretary, Treasurer, or other officer of the Club, or for work or labour of any sort done on or about the ground, or in connection with the Club's affairs.

(b) Any player who receives any compensation for loss of time from his Club or any Member of it. This clause shall not debar a Club from insuring its playing Members against accidents in a recognized Accidental Insurance Company.

(c) Any player trained at the Club's expense, or at the expense of any Member of the Club.

(d) Any player who receives from his Club, or any Member of it, any sum in excess of the amount actually disbursed by him on account of hotel and travelling expenses incurred in connection with the Club's affairs.

(e) Any player who transfers his services from one Club to another on the consideration of any contract, engagement, or promise on the part of a Club, or of any Member of that Club, to find him employment.

3. Whenever a player transfers his membership from one club to another, the Rugby Union Committee may, if they think fit to do so, call on such a player for a full explanation of his

reasons for his migration, and suspend such player pending a satisfactory explanation.

4. The Rugby Football Union Committee shall have the power of suspending for as long as they think fit :—

(a) Any player whom they shall consider to be a professional ; and

(b) Any Club which shall in their opinion have been proved to have played a professional after the 15th day of October, 1886.

5. The Rugby Football Union Committee shall have the power of suspending :—

(a) Any Club which shall play a Match with a Club which has been suspended by them under Rule 3, or with any Club which has been formed out of the nucleus of any suspended Club ; and

(b) Any Club which has employed any of its paid servants as Umpire, or employed any Umpire who has received any sum in excess of the amount actually disbursed by him on account of hotel or travelling expenses.

6. An inquiry in any suspected instance of a breach by any Club of any of these Rules may be instituted by the Rugby Football Union Committee :—

(a) In their absolute discretion.

(b) At the request of any Club which may lodge a complaint.

In the event of an inquiry being instituted at the complaint of any Club, such Club shall forthwith deposit with the Hon. Sec. of the Rugby Football Union the sum of £10. On such deposit being made and a written statement of the facts relied upon sent to the Hon. Sec., an inquiry shall forthwith be instituted in such place, at such time, and in such manner as the Rugby Football Union Committee shall direct.

The Rugby Football Union Committee shall have absolute power to confiscate, return, or otherwise deal with the deposit as they shall think fit, having regard to the circumstances of the case.

7. On an inquiry the Rugby Football Union Committee shall have the power to require the production of any books, documents, or evidence which they may deem necessary or desirable.

8. In the event of any Club declining or neglecting to submit to, or appear at, or co-operate in any inquiry, or to furnish such evidence as may be required, the Rugby Football Union Committee shall have power forthwith to suspend such Club during their discretion.

ADDENDA ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE (AS TO
INSURANCE OF PLAYERS) TO RULES AS TO
PROFESSIONALISM PASSED AT THE GENERAL
MEETING IN OCTOBER, 1886.

1. A Club may insure its Members against accidents in its Club Matches—

(a) In a recognized Accidental Insurance Company.

(b) In a fund specially set apart by the Club itself for that object.

2. In either case the maximum amount which may be paid to any player shall be 10s. (ten shillings) for each week-day during which he shall actually be prevented from playing or from earning wages. All payments must be made through the Secretary or Treasurer of the Club.

No payment shall be made to any Player

(a) For any day for which he receives wages, or

(b) For any day during the first seven days succeeding the day of the accident, if during such seven days he plays Football.

3. No payment shall be made except on the certificate of a duly qualified medical practitioner that the player is incapacitated by his injuries from pursuing his ordinary employment.

4. Every Club shall on or before the 15th day of January, and the 15th day of May respectively in each year, send to the Hon. Sec. of the Rugby Football Union a detailed statement showing what payments have been made to players up to the 31st day of December and the 30th day of April preceding the said dates respectively; and shall also, on or before the first-mentioned days, forward a properly audited account, showing all receipts and payments made during the period covered by such account, and if required all Books and Vouchers necessary for proving the accuracy thereof.

At the same time it shall be the duty of the Secretary or Treasurer of every Club to certify *that*—(a) All the payments set out were made on the certificate of a duly qualified medical man. (b) No wages were earned by any recipients of such payments for any of the days for which such payments were made them. (c) In cases where the man injured has received payments for any of the first seven days after his accident, he has not played Football during such seven days.

ADDENDA AS TO THE DEVOLUTION OF POWERS
TO COUNTY COMMITTEES ADOPTED BY THE
RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION COMMITTEE IN 1888.

The Rugby Football Union Committee have decided (in accordance with Law 6 *re* professionalism, which reads thus : that an inquiry shall be instituted in such place, at such time, and in such manner as the Rugby Union Committee shall direct) to empower the County Committees to investigate any charge of professionalism or any offences incurred under Laws 45 and 49 against either any club or any member of any club in the respective County Unions, and to empower them to adjudicate on any such cases coming before them and to suspend the offending club or player as in Rule 4 *re* professionalism.

That any suspended club or player shall have the right of appeal to the Rugby Union Committee, and that the Committee shall have full power either to annul such suspension altogether or to enlarge, shorten, or otherwise vary the period of such suspension, and that an appeal must be lodged with the secretary of the Rugby Football Union within seven days of the meeting at which the sentence was passed.

That such appeal must be accompanied with a deposit of £50, and that the Rugby Football Union Committee shall have absolute power to confiscate, return, or otherwise deal with such deposit as they shall think fit.

That the County Committees must take shorthand notes of all proceedings in reference to any of these points and must themselves pay all expenses incidental to such proceedings.

The Rugby Football Union Committee reserve to themselves the right at any time to adjudicate on any professional questions that may arise.

THE END.

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