

up along either side, and, when near enough to the goal attacked, to make the shot diagonally if no back be in the way—but if there be a back, it is better to centre the ball and let one of the mid-forwards try to put it through. The diagonal shot is much more difficult for a goal keeper to stop, but at the same time it is a shot which it is much more difficult to make. The two qualities then that a forward must pre-eminently possess are unselfishness and judgment in attack. These qualities are enhanced by speed and pluck. It does not follow that a speedy runner will dribble speedily; indeed the opposite is more frequently the case. This arises from a disposition to overrun oneself, and so lose command of the ball. A player who is running at break-neck speed cannot have control of himself, and not having control of himself he cannot control the ball. The great idea in forward play is to keep the ball close to the foot. To do so the ball must be struck close to the ground, so that the forward impetus given to it may be all but checked by the reverse spin. The ball ought to make a revolution, or part of it, towards the player who has struck it forward. This is dribbling. A good dribbler will impart this reverse motion to an impelled ball so that it will travel just such a distance as will enable him again to apply whichever foot he desire to the ball without causing him to break or check his speed. To the uninitiated it may look very nice to see the ball about twenty feet ahead of the forward and him descending upon it like a whirlwind, but that is not good play; on the contrary it is very bad play indeed. Speed then is not ability to run fast in pursuit of the ball; but is ability to run fast with the ball. Here I might mention it is my experience that this reverse motion can best be imparted to the ball with boots the toes of which are thin. Box toes are a mistake and so are heavy bars on the soles of the boots— $\frac{1}{2}$ inch is quite thick enough to afford a catch on the ground; thicker bars have a tendency to make the foot catch when a kick is made). By pluck, I do not mean bravado or animal combativeness, but rather self-confidence. Further on I will allude to charging. Here let me say that a forward should not permit his mind to wander while on the field. I have known many players miss golden opportunities suddenly presented to them through being lost in a sort of brown study about what they would do were certain things to happen in the play. Others again I have known to grow nervous when making a good run with the ball lest they should

fail to secure a goal. This may seem to some readers an uncommon thing, but I can assure them it is not. A plucky player will never think of goal-taking when he is on the ball; it will be time enough for him to think of the goal when he has a clear road before him to it. Every step towards the goal presents difficulties; the plucky player is he who retains his self-possession and does not let anticipation overlook any of these obstacles. As a general thing a forward has no call to do any charging. If he be playing an unselfish and judicious game he will have as little call to sustain any charging. At all events what charging is done by forwards should be light. Forwards if they play well together can in most cases avoid this, the most disagreeable part of the game. I would impress upon forwards that it is not pluck to charge an opponent needlessly. To see one player rush into another like a cannon shot may tickle the fancy of groundlings, but it does not convey to the initiated any great idea of the charging party's skill as a player. The forward who can neatly anticipate a dodge and obtain possession of the ball without banging into an opponent is a good player and would always have a place on any team which I might control, in preference to a player whose forte was bowling over men like so many ninepins. To forwards, again I say, leave charging to your supports, and confine yourselves in attack to united effort, to evade all opponents and capture the goal. The duties of a forward in defence may be briefly stated. They consist solely in relying upon the half-backs and backs, and in taking up such positions as will enable them to make the best use of the ball when the half-backs and backs have effected its release from the attack. It is a common fault of forwards that they usurp the place of their own defence. This is bad play. A forward is a forward and not a backward, as many of them seem to think whenever the attacking party holds a temporary advantage. This usurpation of duties on the part of forwards cannot be too strongly condemned, for it frequently embarrasses the play of the half-backs and backs, and, what is of equal consequence, invariably weakens or delays the attack when it is again called for.

Having thus outlined the duties of forwards, it might be expected that I would have something to say regarding the physical qualities of the players best suited for the position of forwards. I have none, and for a very simple reason: some of the best forwards I have known have been little fellows, while again some have been big men; some have been fine muscular fellows, others have been