

for the offence, or depriving the offending club of its benefit of membership.

There is no intention to condemn what may be described as a 'legitimate charge'—namely, that scientific jerk of the shoulder which removes a player off the ball. Indeed, when well executed, this is one of the neatest points of the game, but the art is rarely shown except by a few well-known players. Neither is it desirable that the play should degenerate into a type only fit to be exhibited in a drawing room. The muscular energies, the pluck, and the exuberant spirits of the youth of this country will find vent somehow, and in nearly every kind of sport there is, more or less, an element of danger, but it becomes the duty of every keen footballer to reduce the possibility of accident to a minimum. The objectionable feature is the rushing full-tilt at an opponent—not for the purpose of obtaining possession of the leather, but simply to place him *hors-de-combat*, and, if anyone may judge from vicious looks, to 'knock him out of time.' In the process of 'tackling' there is not the slightest occasion for players to convert themselves into battering rams, or, when they are likely to be defeated, to hurl themselves with irresistible force, like a pack of steam engines broke loose, against the enemy, whether the ball is in the immediate proximity or not. Now, when a player adopts these tactics, he not only damages his opponent, but causes a great loss of energy to himself, besides running the risk of getting hurt. Instances have occurred where a player deliberately forced his knee into the stomach of an adversary. Pushing behind with the hands is also common. Regarding the latter practice, it must in justice be said that it often occurs in the heat of the moment, the player having really no intention of breaking the rules, which provide in this particular case the penalty of a free kick; but jumping upon the back of an opponent, which of late has crept into the game, is a proceeding strongly to be condemned. Should these practices be continued, the result will be that clubs known to indulge in them will find a difficulty in arranging matches because others, having once received a severe castigation at their hands, are not likely to run the risk of aiding in a second exhibition of gymnastics. Players of this class should discard Football altogether, and take a few lessons on the vaulting horse and parallel bars, or perhaps the public gymnasium would be the better place to display their agility.

That charging—brutal charging—tends to bring our popular winter pastime into disrepute cannot be denied; and, besides the falling-off in the attendance of the general

public, which must inevitably follow, a question of more serious import arises. Accidents have been greatly on the increase, and in not a few instances players have been prevented from following their usual occupation for weeks—nay, months—and to totally abandon the sport. Several cases occurred wherein life itself has been sacrificed, and this is a matter not lightly to be passed over.

Is it, therefore, too much to ask that the executive of the various clubs will do all in their power to mitigate the evil, and by discouraging—nay, absolutely forbidding—the practice, still further promote the popularity of our winter game, a game in which thousands of the public of Scotland take pleasure? For the successful working of an Association the fewer and more simple the rules the better, and it would be highly creditable to the clubs if they would remove the stigma of their own free will, rather than wait till special laws are laid down to meet the case.

The following is a leader from the *Daily Telegraph* on the unfortunate death of Herbert Dockerty, of the Ashby Club, for which J. Bradshaw of the Colville Club, was tried for manslaughter:—

Lord Justice Bramwell had before him at Leicester on Tuesday a case in which he laid down the law in a manner that will be eminently gratifying to all lovers of our manly English sports and pastimes. The jury were called upon to determine whether the prisoner was or was not guilty of manslaughter under the following circumstances: On the 27th of February last a football match took place at Ashby-de-la-Zouch between the football clubs of Ashby and Colville, and the deceased, Herbert Dockerty, was playing for the Ashby Club, and the prisoner, Bradshaw, for the Colville Club. In the course of the game, which was conducted according to the regulations known as the Association rules, Dockerty got the ball into his possession, and began to "dribble" it down towards the Colville goal. "Dribbling" a football is in its way a highly scientific process. The player keeps the ball as nearly as may be between his feet; he pushes it along by short kicks, and he trusts to his superior strength, weight, agility and skill to carry the ball through the ranks of his antagonists. When a big man thus dribbles a ball the recognized rule of the game is that a bigger man should "charge" him, or, in other words, boldly rush at him and knock him over, and accordingly Bradshaw either was told by his captain, or took it upon himself to charge Dockerty. Dockerty, not caring to meet the charge, stopped dribbling, and gave the ball a kick. The moment he kicked, Bradshaw jumped at him. Both players were going at