

### THE REFEREE.

This official often awards fouls when he is not appealed to. It will conduce more to the harmony of the game if he do not thus exceed his power, but wait for a reference to be made to him.

### THE CAPTAIN.

The captain of a team is always one of the players and the position is one not recognized officially. His position is one of courtesy but it would be well were he recognized by the rules. He is by some clubs chosen on the field and in others chosen to fill the place for the season. Each plan has its advantages. When the captain is selected on the field that man can be chosen under whose leadership the chances are greatest of achieving victory. When he is selected for the season a player is invested with a certain amount of responsibility in getting his men 'up to time,' which produces beneficial results. It would be easy to enlarge upon this subject, but I content myself with saying that he is not always the best captain who is the best player. But he is the best captain who most speedily sees through the weak points of his opponent's play, who correctly appreciates the strong points of his own team and manoeuvres to utilize both for his own advantage. The captain of a team must be a man with a big heart, who is cheerful in reverses and cool in success—a man in whom the team has every confidence as he among them who is the most reliable under any circumstances.

### CHARGING AT FOOTBALL.

Incidentally I have referred to charging in describing the duties of the several players of a team, and here I may be permitted to revert to the subject, which is one of vital importance. The recklessness with which charging has been engaged in by many clubs, has thrown a measure of discredit on the game, though fortunately its many other attractions have still preserved for it almost inestimable favour with the public. It is a duty and it ought to be a pleasure to all players to remove even the appearance of evil from the Association game, and to do all in their power to make it forever as it has been in the past, an amusement as much to the gentle spectator as to the robust player. The game in Scotland owes no inconsiderable degree of its popularity to the presence of the fair sex on the field and when they are repelled by violent play then will the first step in the decadence of the game be taken. Even

strong men do not enjoy ferocity and I fail to see what satisfaction any one can have in injuring a fellow player. Still it has been done, and I am sorry to say the evil practice has been on the increase in the Old Country. Canadian players may say it is time enough to lecture us upon a vice when it manifests itself in our play. Very true; and I reply that if needless charging have not been partitionary noticeable on Canadian fields it has not been unobserved; and, what is more to the point, there are manifestations of its being on the increase. I would call on one and all to nip this vice of play in the bud. If we do not legislate upon it let us visit its detection with strong deprecation. Let it be our determination in this as in other things to improve upon the Old Country idea. Let us earn the distinction, if we can, of elevating to greater excellence, than they, the beauties of the game, and of reducing to a lower minimum, the abuse of its less commendable features. So strongly do I feel about the evil of indiscriminate charging that underneath I reproduce an article from the 'Scottish Annual.' A careful perusal, nay a re-perusal of this I commend to all; and I indulge the hope that the day will be long distant when any Canadian will have to write in a similar strain concerning the game in the Dominion.

A few remarks on a subject which has long been uppermost in the minds of the lovers of Football may not be considered out of place. For some time past there has been a feeling of disappointment among the constant supporters of the dribbling game regarding the increased prevalence of heavy charging in Association Football matches. One of the chief objects in starting the Association rules was to avoid the roughness connected with the Rugby code, under which so many serious casualties have occurred, and to make the play more a skillful 'working' of the ball rather than an exhibition of brute force. That this has been attained in a remarkable degree cannot be questioned; the clever dribbling, the neat passing and crossing—almost mechanical in its degree accuracy—and the 'screw' shots at goal either with the right or left foot, exhibited by the high-class clubs of Scotland, giving pleasure and delight to many thousands of spectators. Reports from all quarters, however, abundantly testify that there is serious ground for complaint, and in face of several recent exhibitions before the eyes of the committee, it becomes a matter for consideration whether the Association should not take the matter in hand and remedy the evil, by either devising a penalty