

ing is a matter for judgment to determine. The back is the only man who, except in making a shot at goal, is privileged in a scientific game to make a heavy kick or kick the ball high in air. In kicking, a back's first consideration is to dispossess the attack of the ball and by as much distance as possible. If in doing this he can feed the half-backs so much the better, if the forwards, then indeed is he entitled to the heartiest of applause. Of course, if it be wrong in a half-back to dribble, it is doubly wrong in a back. A back must not run with the ball at his foot, but on the contrary when he gets the leather kick as best he may.

DUTIES OF THE GOALKEEPER.

These are the most difficult to define of any player, and they are the most difficult and least thankful to discharge. If any man must be cool on a football field that man is the goalkeeper. Many men in practice can keep admirably cool, but when in a match are enervated by permitting the mind to anticipate all manner of mishaps. Perfect self-command is therefore the first requisite. Again, as a goalkeeper has to cover a space of twenty-four by eight feet, he must be agile as a cat to avert the lightning-like shots that are often made. He must be able to kick well and truly with both feet, and be a sure catch with his hands. He must have excellent judgment, so that he may know when to leave his goal, when to place himself in front of it, and when to retire to the goal line. He must also be a man of good physique and long reach, so that he may repel a heavy charge, and, if necessary, be able to toss the ball over the line when beset by the attack. It will be a safe rule for a goalkeeper to follow, if he never leave his post except when the backs are unavailable and there are about two chances to one that by advancing he secure the ball. Once he have the ball the rules as to kicking which apply to backs obtain with him. Many goalkeepers stand beneath the goal line, but a favourite position is a few feet in advance of it, so that he can, by a step or two to either side or by raising his hands, prevent the passage of the ball between the posts unless it come through the air and be falling in an arch which will just get beneath the tape. This being the easiest of all shots to stop, because it must of necessity have come a distance and be travelling slowly, the goalkeeper if he be in advance can easily retire in time. The advantages seem to be entirely in favour of the goal-

keeper who stands a few feet forward in the field.

SUMMARY.

I have thus briefly attempted to give my own idea concerning what is demanded of the various players on a field. It would be too much to expect that they will be accepted unchallenged by experienced players, but if they succeed in imparting somewhat more of science into the game than is at present displayed in Canada the questioning of kindly critics will but sweeten the satisfaction I will feel at having been instrumental in directing such a measure of inquiry among football players, as to lead to my conclusions being questioned. If my directions turn out to be wrong, then I will have still greater satisfaction in knowing that something better has taken their place. When on this matter, permit me one word in conclusion. To all young players I would say, learn to keep cool. I do not mean to be cold-blooded in your play, but maintain command of yourself; for believe me, if you cannot command yourself, you cannot command the ball. In your demeanour toward your fellow-players be as courteous as if you were in a drawing-room and in evening dress. If some one else, who has not command of himself, make any imprudent or offensive remark, pass it by in silence; or, if it be such as to demand an explanation, wait till the first natural break occur in the play, then request an explanation; if it be not forthcoming, act upon what in your sober judgment seems right, but by no means lower yourself to the level of the offender by displaying impatience or anger. On the field cultivate a feeling of mutual concession and friendliness, and if you do wrong acknowledge it without waiting to be accused. Be as careful not to overrun your instincts as a gentleman as you are careful not to overrun the ball, then, indeed, will you be a true football player and a worthy exponent of the noble game.

THE UMPIRE.

The rules give directions for the selection of an umpire but they do not instruct that official any too plainly in his duty, judging by the infringements of his position and powers which he, invariably I might say, makes. An umpire has no right to open his mouth in reprobation, caution, or in giving judgment until appealed to. When appealed to he must give his decision promptly. He has no call to hear evidence. If a foul be claimed and he do not see it let him say so and the other umpire is then in order to speak.