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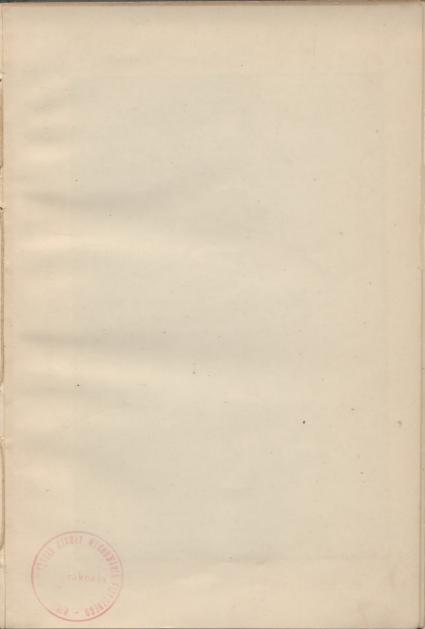
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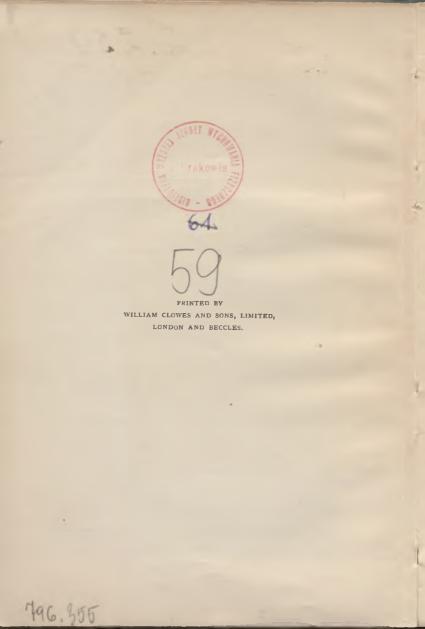
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A COUNTY PLAYER.

WITH A CHAPTER FOR LADIES.

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PREFACE.

IN response to the demand for fuller information than was given in the first edition of this book, published eleven years ago, it has been carefully revised for this new edition, and considerably enlarged, and may now claim to give all the information required to put the player in a fair way to become an adept at the game if he, or she, is prepared to devote the necessary time and attention to the all-essential practice. The illustrations have also, been added in this edition.

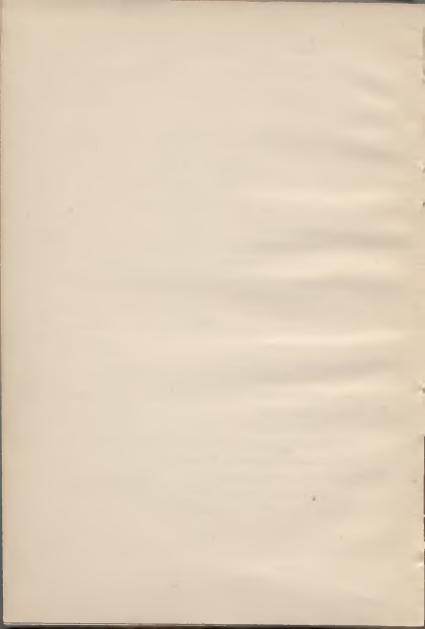
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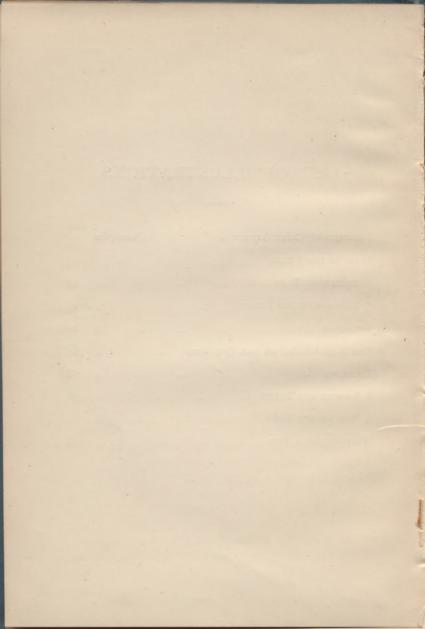
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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

OF the many games which have increased in popular favour during the past few years, hockey undoubtedly can claim the foremost place. It is by no means a new game, having in fact,-certainly in rather a different form-been in existence for nearly a century, but the school-boy hockey of yore, although the forerunner of the present game, was very different from the game we now see played according to the rules laid down by the English Hockey Association. Had players the unqualified option of striking their opponents across the shins with their sticks, whenever these said opponents happened to get on the wrong side (a practice long known as "shinning"), it would become such a terrible means of chastisement that few men would care to face it and its consequences. It therefore stands to reason that the safer the game can be made the more popular it must become, provided you do not rob it of some of its best points. It is easy to make a game safe no doubt, but

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the question is whether, after having secured the *safety*, you have not entirely spoiled the original game. For instance, in the case of hockey, let us substitute a soft indiarubber ball and a light ash stick for the cricket ball and stick now in general use. Security is attained, undoubtedly, but how about the game? This question of safety is, however, an important one, and it is fortunate that, owing to the rules now in force, danger is reduced to a minimum, whilst the fine points in the game are in no way harmed.

While admitting, as no doubt it is universally admitted with regard to our English outdoor sports and games, that you "cannot have a really good game without a spice of danger," yet, nevertheless, when danger can be avoided without spoiling a game, it is equally ridiculous and senseless not to avoid it. As hockey, therefore, in its present state is, so to speak, in its infancy, it behoves every one who is interested in it and has the game at heart, to do his individual best to forward its interests by a careful consideration of the rules as they now stand, and should he have any sound suggestions to make to lay them before the committee of the Association, who will no doubt be only too pleased to hear them.

Whilst on the subject of danger, one must mention one of the worst and most fertile sources of accidents. This is the reckless lifting or wielding of the stick above the shoulder when in the act of striking the ball. This is provided against in the rules; but, nevertheless, the rule is only too often broken, though for the most part unintentionally. This is touched upon later, but we will take this opportunity of making a few remarks, not on the subject exactly of "lifting the stick above the

INTRODUCTION.

shoulder," but rather as regards the long mowing or scythesweeping stroke, adopted so as to enable the striker to make as hard a hit as possible without running the risk of being pulled up by the umpire when appealed to for "sticks." This mowing stroke is one to be strongly deprecated, notwithstanding that some players make a practice of cultivating it. The stroke has little to recommend it, and there is much in it to condemn. There is a decided tendency, when striking the ball in this manner, to "scoop" it into the air, thus causing additional risk of accidents. We will imagine a forward is closely following the ball, when it is met by a halfback of the opposing side, who strikes it in the manner just described, causing the ball to rise. If the ball happens to come straight at the forward's face or head. nothing can save him from an ugly accident, for from the speed with which the ball is returned it is impossible to dodge or evade it, especially as the chances are that the said player will be blown at the end of a vigorous rush.

Anybody can take up hockey who has been accustomed either to cricket, football, or any game requiring activity and accuracy. It combines the accuracy of eye required in cricket with the endurance and pluck necessary in football.

Coolness and decision are as much required either by a "back" or "half," as endurance, pluck, and a dogged perseverance are required by a forward.

CHAPTER II.

THE GROUND.

NOTHING perhaps tends more quickly to place a strong team on the same level as an inferior one than the mere fact of playing on a bumpy and uneven ground. A hockey ground cannot be too level or smooth, and hence the necessity, if one wishes to see the game played as it should be, of obtaining, if possible, a field usually used for cricket. A few years back, the managers of cricket clubs had a deeply rooted objection to allowing their cricket grounds to be used during the winter months by hockey clubs. It is fortunate, however, that this objection is rapidly dying out, and we now find that cricket grounds are the headquarters of the majority of the prominent clubs. The objection that used to be advanced-and even now there are some few remaining who will not be dissuaded-was that hockey did much damage, and seriously interfered with the growth of the turf for the ensuing cricket season. Now, as experience shows, this is not the case, provided that a reasonable amount of care is taken by the groundsman at the conclusion of each match. If such care be taken, and hockey ceases to be played some five or six weeks before the commencement of the summer game, it would require an expert of very wonderful powers to say that the ground had in any way suffered. Let us take one ground only in proof of the above remarks-Bushey

THE GROUND.

Park, the home of the Teddington Club. No better instance could be given than this, as not only do Teddington play on the cricket field, but, what is more to the point still, their ground stretches right across the centre of the pitch. Can any one who has ever played cricket at Teddington complain of bad wickets? They are as near perfection as one could wish. Fast and true, they bear no traces of having been used for another form of sport in the winter. Had the ground been neglected after hockey matches and care not been expended at the close of the season, the cricket pitches would undoubtedly not have the excellent reputation they now bear. As it is, however, care and judgment is bestowed on the ground at the right season and before cricket commences, and any slight temporary damage that may have been caused, either through a player slipping on the turf or by his removing a piece with his stick, is entirely obliterated. So it is with all grounds; a reasonable amount of care will rectify any temporary damage. It certainly appeared at one time that the inability to obtain level and smooth grounds would somewhat hamper the progress of the game. Fortunately, however, this difficulty is being rapidly overcome, and we now find that as a general rule cricket grounds are readily obtainable.

Dimensions.—According to the rules the dimensions of the ground should be as follows: one hundred yards long and not more than sixty nor less than fifty yards wide, marked with white lines and with a flag at each corner. The longer sides are called the "side-lines" and the shorter sides the "goal-lines." With regard to these dimensions, it is advisable, if possible, to keep to the

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maximum allowed, in the width especially, and for no other reason than that on a ground of sixty yards' width the game is not nearly so cramped as it would be were the width but fifty yards, and far more open play is the result. It is much easier to all concerned to carry out a combined movement, the ball rapidly passing from one to the other, on a wide ground than it would be were the movements confined to a narrower space.

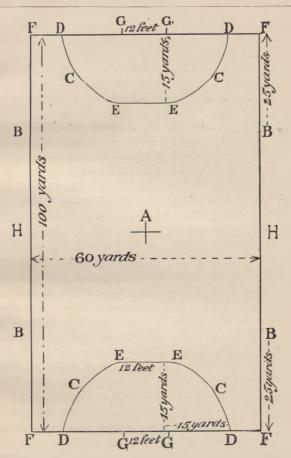
The Goal.—In the middle of each goal-line and twelve feet apart are placed the goal-posts. In height they are seven feet, with a bar carried across the top of the posts.

At one time these three posts alone stood as the goal, but now the general custom is to have nets affixed to the goal-posts. They are almost a necessity, and will prevent many disputes. Were there no nets, it would often be a very doubtful point to decide, especially in a fading light, whether a hard shot had gone through the goal or at the side of it. With nets properly fixed the point cannot arise. If the ball passes through the goal-posts, it will assuredly lodge in the net, and such disputed goals are consequently reduced to a minimum.

Striking Circle.—In front of each goal is drawn a line, twelve feet long, parallel to the goal-line, and fifteen yards from it. The ends of this line are curved round to the goal-lines by quarter circles, of which the goal-posts form the centres. This line is called the "striking circle," and no goal is scored until the ball has passed entirely over the line between the goal-posts under the bar, the ball having, whilst within the striking circle, been hit by or glanced off the stick of a player on the attacking side.

The ball used is an ordinary cricket ball painted white.

THE GROUND.



F F F F, Corner flag posts. B B B B, 25 yard flags placed about 6 feet from side line. F B B F, side line roo yards in length. H H, half way flags. G G, goal posts, not attached at back. F D F, Goal-lines, 60 yards wide. D C E, Striking circle. A, Mark in the centre of the ground, midway letween the goal-lines, at which the ball must be started by a "bully" at the commencement of the game, and after a goal has been scored.

CHAPTER III.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT.

ALTHOUGH the question of personal equipment may perhaps appear to many a minor detail, and one hardly worth discussing, yet to others it is of supreme importance. We will take it that as regards your nether garments, shirt, and stockings there is no trouble, wearing, as you will doubtless do, your club colours, but the question of boots or shoes is an important one. The latter should be rarely worn; in fact, one may say unhesitatingly, by a half or back never, by forwards seldom. A few forwards may be found adopting them, but it is wise, if possible, to avoid them. A shoe offers no protection to the ankle, but however thin the sides of a boot may be, a certain amount of resistance to a blow is at any rate offered. One may no doubt be able to move a trifle faster in shoes than in boots, but the extra risk run is hardly worth the saving in weight, which is practically nil. For a forward one cannot do better than make use of a pair of thin ordinary brown boots, the soles of which are barred or studded. They will be found most comfortable, and for quick progress comfort is essential. With the halves and backs no doubt a somewhat heavier boot is required. owing to the defensive work they have to perform, Ordinary football boots, with the ankle and maybe the instep padded, will save many a blow that would otherwise have made its presence felt. Shin-pads should

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be worn by all, and if one does not like the appearance of them, the little difficulty can be easily remedied by simply wearing them beneath the stocking. Gloves are also advisable. If a forward, you will doubtless find an old pair of thin kid ones will frequently save the hands being bruised, whilst backs, as a general rule, should make use of the ordinary cricket batting-glove with rubber backs. Not only will gloves save blows and damaged fingers, but also, on a wet day especially, they allow a far firmer grip of the stick.

Nothing is more important than having a stick which can be easily wielded. They vary considerably in their shape and weight. One man may advocate a certain shape which to another would be absolutely unsuitable. It should not be too heavy or too long. Backs certainly require both longer and weightier sticks than forwards; longer by reason of the fact that in defending they frequently require a long reach in order to stretch out and stop an attack working away from them, and heavier in that they generally have to hit harder than those in the front rank.

Nothing hampers a man more either in dribbling or in giving passes than using a stick which is too long. Being too long it is only cumbersome, and prevents quick action, and for success at the game quickness in action is essential.

Also with regard to weight, the player must use his own discretion. He should not use one either too heavy or too light. A well-balanced one of about twenty-three ounces will be found ample for a forward, and for one of the defence an ounce or so heavier will suffice. In the above suggestion as to equipment only a general idea is given, and it of course entirely rests with the player

himself as to the outfit he requires, but let him make certain before commencing a game that all his paraphernalia is absolutely suited to him and to his style of play.

CHAPTER IV.

COMBINED PLAY.

Some few years ago hockey was exclusively a dribbling game. The player who happened to have the ball kept it pretty much to himself, as long as he could do so, without any thought of passing the ball to another player on his own side. We may liken it very much in fact to the same way we attempted to play football in the days of our early youth, before the more scientific method of playing with combination was adopted. *Tempora mutantur*. Combination is, at the present time, the one great road leading to success, and the team which do not thoroughly understand and put into practice the art of passing cannot have much chance of winning matches.

It is true a certain amount of dribbling is required, as one must, at any rate, be able at times to get past an opponent without assistance; but the one who carries it to excess is not only a bad player himself, but his mere presence in a team is apt to entirely spoil the play of the others. For a team to meet with much success, it is necessary that all the members of it shall be not only thoroughly conversant with each other's play, but also willing and capable of relying on the help of another in order to effectually outmanœuvre an opponent.

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COMBINED PLAY.

Nothing tends more readily to break up a defence than to be opposed to a line of forwards who play well into each other's hands with clock-like precision. Many and many a time has the good individual player, or shall we call him the dribbling player, absolutely counteracted the good work of the others by carrying his dribbling to excess. It is no good. Very pretty and clever it may appear to the onlooker, but to the savant it is not hockey.

It is a common occurrence to see a team composed of eleven fine individual players, each playing for his own hand, and not for his side, defeated by an eleven of individually less experienced players, who are content to rely on combined play to give them the victory.

How is it that a school football team generally manage, whether it be Rugger or Socker, to inflict defeats upon scratch teams, often composed of well-known and experienced players? The answer is not hard to find, and it lies in the one word—" combination." So it is in hockey. The eleven members of a team who meet, and will always meet with success, are those who have placed individuality on one side, and play the game, relying rather on the assistance of others than on their own individual efforts.

The captain's responsibilities and duties are greatly increased owing to this necessity for combination, which consequently gives him far more scope for showing his powers of generalship. He must be ever on the watch to see that his men are in their proper positions, for should they not be so, combination is impossible. By instinct, and almost without looking, a player should know where his partner is standing, and should they be inclined to wander from their allotted post, the captain should at once see the defect remedied. There should be no

compromise. The temptation may be strong to a wing player to rush over to the opposite wing because there appears a chance of doing something flashy and brilliant, but it must be checked, and checked too with a firm hand. Laxness in this respect is the source of many defeats. If a player continues to offend, there is one excellent remedy-leave him out of the team until he learns to obey. As he is at present, his presence instead of being a boon is a calamity. He may urge many grounds in defence of his excess of zeal, but his excess of zeal is only, in other words, "selfishness." The principle of not keeping to the allotted place is wrong, and although it is hard to say that circumstances never occur when a man should leave his appointed place, yet such circumstances are not very frequent, and should then only be made when there is a complete understanding between another player, who will at once take the vacated position.

Any one taking to the game will soon find the above remarks are in no way exaggerated, and if he himself wishes to become a proficient player he must be thoroughly conversant in "passing" and all its branches. To do this effectually, however, he must *keep his place*.

CHAPTER V.

NOTES ON THE PLAY.

A HOCKEY team consists of eleven players, unless otherwise agreed upon by the respective captains, and the positions allotted to them on the field are as follows : The

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NOTES ON THE PLAY.

goal-keeper, or the "final line of defence." The backs, or the "second line of defence," are two in number, one on the right wing and the other on the left. The halves, or the "first line of defence," are three in number, one on either wing, and the other in the centre. The forwards, five in number, are placed across the ground in front of the halves; one occupies the position of centre; two are placed on the right, and called respectively inside right and outside right, and the remaining two occupy corresponding positions on the left side of the ground, the whole line forming what we will call the "line of attack."

The duties of each of the above in their respective positions will be found more fully dealt with in another chapter, but at present we will confine our attention to a few hints governing the different points occurring during a game.

THE BULLY OFF.

The captains of the respective sides having tossed for choice of goals, the game is commenced by a "bully" between the two centre forwards on the position marked A (see diagram), whilst all the other players must stand between their own goal-line and the ball. As soon as the bully is completed the ball is said to be "in play" (see Rule 2).

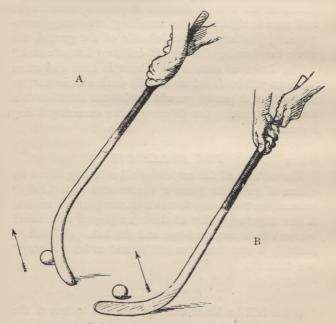
THE "25" BULLY.

If the ball be hit behind the goal-line by one of the attacking side it is "dead," and has to be brought out to the twenty-five yard line BB (see diagram) and placed on a spot in front of where it crossed the goal-line, and again "bullied off" (see Rule 20).

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BACK-HANDED PLAY.

Back-handed play is not allowed, all strokes having to be made with the face of the stick; neither may the ball be stopped unless with the face of the stick. Should the ball come to a player at such an angle and distance from him that he cannot reach it either with foot or hand, and



Back-handed Play. A, legal; B, illegal.

is awkwardly placed for gaining possession of it, there is nothing to prevent him turning his stick round with the end of it pointing towards the ground. This, however, is not an easy stroke to make, and requires a good deal of practice.

The penalty exacted for playing with the back of the stick is a "free hit" for the opposition in the direction of the transgressor's goal (see Rule 13).

FREE HIT.

When a free hit is allowed none of the offending side must be within five yards of the spot where the hit is made, which hit must be taken at the spot where the offence occurred, and for which the penalty was claimed (see Rule 15).

THROWING FROM TOUCH.

The ball is also said to be "dead" not only when it crosses the goal-line but also the side-lines. When once it has crossed either of the side-lines it has to be thrown in along the ground by one of the opposite side to that which hit it out, and no other player may stand within five yards of the thrower whilst such throwing-out is in progress. The ball may be thrown either straight or back, but on no account in the direction of the opponents' goal. If such should be the case it is the umpire's duty to order the ball to be again thrown in (see Rule 18).

OFF-SIDE.

The rule as regards "off-side" play enacts that when a player hits the ball any other player of the same side who is nearer his opponents' goal-line at the moment when the ball is hit is off-side, unless there be at least three of his opponents nearer their own goal-line; and he may not touch the ball himself, nor approach, nor remain within

five yards of it, nor in any way interfere with any other player until the ball has been touched or hit by one of the other side. The penalty incurred for off-side play is also a free hit to the opponents.

A player is always off-side if he is in front of the ball at the time of hitting, unless there are three or more of his opponents nearer their own goal-line than himself. He is never off-side, however, if there are three or more of his opponents nearer their own goal-line than himself at the moment the ball was last hit. Lastly, he cannot be off-side if the ball which was last played is touched or hit by one of his opponents (subject to the five-yard rule) or by one of his own side, who at the time of hitting is nearer his opponents' goal-line than himself.

It will be thus seen that the player must take great care as to his position when not actually playing the ball or waiting for a pass, as the penalty of a free hit awarded to his opponents not only checks the strong attack being made on their defence, but, more important still, will carry the ball into the transgressor's own territory (see Rule 12).

"STICKS."

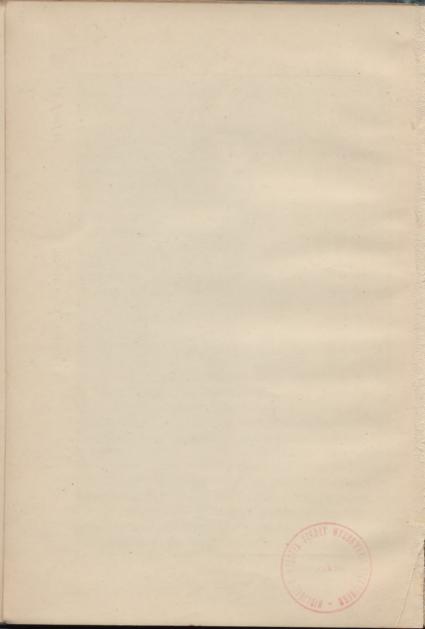
Great care must be taken to note, whilst in the act of hitting, that the stick is not allowed to rise above the level of the shoulder. The novice, no doubt, will experience some difficulty in conforming at first to this rule. The higher the stick is raised, the harder and farther he considers he will hit the ball. This may to a certain extent be true, but then, hard and heavy hitting is not hockey. Nothing should be more sternly

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To face p. 16.

A THROW-IN FROM TOUCH.



NOTES ON THE PLAY.

condemned than long and heavy driving, with no further object in view than, "I have hit the ball, and hard too; didn't it travel?" It will be found, both by players in the front rank and also in the defence, that a short, sharp wrist stroke will send the ball quite hard enough and quite far enough also. It must be remembered that the longer the sweep given to the stroke, the longer it will take to make; and hockey is a game in which the one who accomplishes his object in the shortest space of time is invariably the one to come off best. In the cricket field the hard and heavy hitter is not by any means the man who swings his bat the most. The reason of his hard-hitting powers is that he times the ball to perfection, and in his timing of the ball brings wrist work into full play. So it is in hockey; a short quick wrist stroke will drive the ball quite far enough (see Rule 14).

A FOUL.

From the mere name we can see the possibility of an unfair advantage being taken by a man against his opponent. According to the rules, a player shall not cross his opponent from the left so as to foul him. A touch constitutes a foul. In the event of a player crossing from the left and touching the ball, but not his opponent first, no foul shall be given against him. "Turning on the ball," with the player's back to an opponent, also constitutes a foul. By so doing the opponent is absolutely prevented from being able to reach the ball, and is thus placed at a disadvantage which the rules absolutely forbid. For the same reason, charging and tripping are strictly forbidden (see Rule 13).

С

STOPPING THE BALL.

The ball may be caught (but must at once be dropped on the ground) or stopped with any part of the body; but it must not be picked up, carried, kicked, knocked on or back, except with the stick. One of the greatest dangers to which one is liable when making use of the hands for stopping is that, perhaps unknowingly, the ball is either handled too long or else moved from the position in which it was originally stopped. Often and often one has seen a player stop a ball with his hand and move it a good foot either from the right to left or *vice versa*. On an appeal being made and given against him, he will be astonished to hear that he has moved the ball from its original position. The fact remains, however, that he has done so, and his side has to pay the penalty (see Rule 13).

KICKING.

Great care should also be exercised when the feet are used as a means of stopping, that the ball is not kicked. By practice "foot-stopping" can be made as effective and safe as "hand-stopping." It is no good stopping the ball with the feet, however, if it is allowed to rebound out of reach. Care must therefore be taken to keep the ball well under control and within reach, so that it can, when stopped, be at once hit to any desired spot. Many and many a time has a man very cleverly saved the ball from getting past him by stretching out his foot; but, at the same time, he has quite spoiled his otherwise excellent piece of play, in that he has not taken sufficient precaution to keep the ball well within reach, but has allowed

NOTES ON THE PLAY.

it, directly it has touched his foot, to bound off at an awkward angle in the direction of an opponent, who has thus been able to take advantage of the defender's carelessness (see Rule 13).

PENALTY BULLY.

Should a foul occur in the defenders' circle, owing to one of the defenders (in the opinion of the umpire) purposely fouling an opponent, a "penalty bully" should be ordered. Whilst this penalty bully is in progress, all the players, excepting the two taking part in the bully (the one who was fouled, and the one who fouled), must stand outside the circle. Neither may any one else interfere, either with the ball or players, until the ball has been hit outside the circle. This is, no doubt, a very stringent rule, but a fair one, as indiscriminate "fouling" by the defenders in their own circle cannot be too strongly condemned. Such indiscriminate fouling would only tend to encourage roughness and the game would consequently suffer (see Rules 16 and 17).

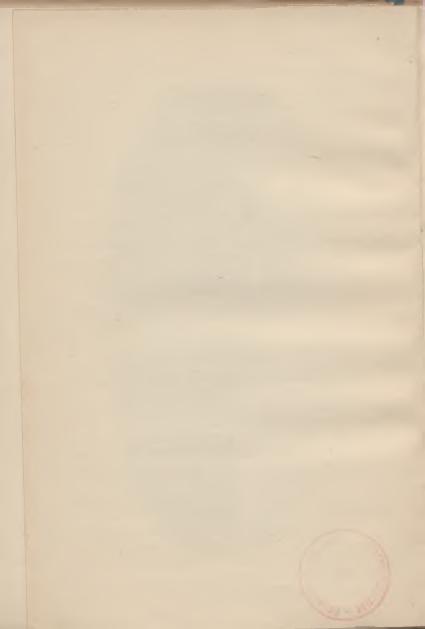
THE CORNER HIT.

The "corner hit" is a hit from the corner flag by any player of the attacking side, in the direction of the striking circle, around which the other forwards are standing, whilst the whole of the defence is stationed on the goal-line, which they may not leave until the ball has been struck by the wing player. As in Association football a "corner" is given, owing to the ball either having been struck or having glanced off the body of one of the defenders, and passed over their own goal-line,

and it is intended to be a penalty against the defending side. Until the rule was altered, some four or five years ago, it was, undoubtedly, a penalty, and some advantage at any rate was gained by the attacking side. Under the old rule, a goal could be scored with a "flying shot," i.e. taking the ball in its progress, either on the full toss or half-volley. Now, the ball must be stopped "dead," or must touch one of the defenders before a goal can be scored. An attacking side that forces the defenders to concede "a corner" in order to save their goal should, indeed, deserve a better chance of scoring from such a corner than they do at present. Under the existing rule, however, that which should be a benefit to the attackers is, more often than not, a benefit to the defenders. A goal-keeper or back, severely hemmed in, and knowing full well that by conceding a corner he is in no way injuring his side's chances, frequently and purposely hits the ball behind his old goal-line. By so doing he gives time to his side to get back into goal; and then, when the corner is taken, what time and what chance, except, in truth, a very remote one, have the attackers of getting the ball into the net, after having tried to stop the ball dead before getting in their hit, and with the defenders rushing out to meet them?

The flying shot was disallowed, on the ground that it was a dangerous stroke. It is often argued that the flying shot from a corner is no more dangerous than any other stroke now in daily use. A forward, receiving a pass in the circle, under the ordinary course of events, does not, as a rule, wait to stop the ball with his hand, but immediately, without waiting, tries to get it into the net with a flying shot. This flying shot, equally as dangerous as the one





from the corner hit, is legal, whilst the latter one is prohibited.

Several suggestions have been made as to the best way to deal with "corners." One, a very feasible one, is that the corner should be hit from the spot where the ball goes over the goal-line. By so doing, the ball would not have to travel as far to the forwards as it would have had, had it been hit from the corner of the ground, and the attacking forwards would consequently have more time in which to stop the ball "dead" before getting in their stroke.

The whole matter really rests on the question, Should the mere fact of the ball going behind the goal-line, either as a result of a hit or glance by a defender, incur a penalty? No doubt, before another season the question will have been taken in hand by the Hockey Association, and satisfactorily dealt with; but, as matters stand at present, the rule clearly needs revision (see Rule 20).

CHAPTER VI.

THE GOAL-KEEPER.

THE goal-keeper, or final line of defence, occupies a position of great responsibility. In return for the responsibility thrown upon his shoulders he has but few of the pleasures that come to the other players. A mistake once made can never be retrieved, and he has to wait until another shot is directed against his goal, knowing full well that should he again fail to keep his

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charge intact, the anathemas of all the other members of his side will be silently, yet none the less copiously, poured upon his head.

His position, in addition to the responsibility attached thereto, is a by no means easy one to satisfactorily fill. It must be remembered that he has to deal, in almost every case, with shots driven hard towards him at a distance never greater than fifteen yards, frequently much less, and with these he alone has to contend. He will perhaps save many, some by jumping in front of the ball and receiving the full force of it on his body, and others he may save by means of his stick alone. Of those he misses, however! What is the cause of his mistake? Those alone who have tried the position will fully realize the difficulties with which he has had to contend and the causes of his mistakes.

Apart from the difficulty attaching to the position there are but few attractions in it. Who is there who has not watched the shivering custodian on a bleak wintry afternoon standing between the posts and anxiously waiting for some work to do to relieve the monotony? Should his team be playing a winning game and having the best of matters, he has absolutely nothing to do but stand still and continue to shiver. It would be too risky an expedient for his captain to bring him up and play him amongst the other backs, as, should the opposing forwards get away and the goal be left unguarded, disaster might occur. No; he must take his chance and keep to his position. Should his side, however, not be winning, then his turn comes for showing his saving capabilities.

It has been previously said that he may stop the ball in any way he pleases, whether with his body or stick.

THE GOAL-KEEPER.

He should as far as possible get in front of the shot, and, having stopped it, get it away out of danger as speedily as possible. If stopping with his feet, he should exercise great care that the ball does not rebound too far from his reach. Should it do so, he will doubtless find an alert forward of the opposition again ready to pounce down upon him and so counteract the effect of his previous save. Many goal-keepers nowadays wear cricket-pads, affording as they do a greater protection to the legs. This is no doubt, from the safety point of view, a wise plan, but apart from the advantage of safety the custom has not much more to commend it. For moving quickly and nimbly such pads are clumsy and an undoubted hindrance, and in addition the ball is much more likely to bound farther away than it would do from ordinary shin-pads. The latter can be made specially long, and would be found to allow, in addition to ample protection, far greater facilities for quick movement.

To the goal-keeper alone is allowed the special prerogative of kicking. Having saved a warm shot, and being unable, by reason of the fact that he is heavily pressed, to get his stick into play, he should kick the ball, taking every precaution to get the ball well away to either side of the ground, and so prevent his opponents from again proceeding immediately to the attack. Should he have plenty of time for saving, one cannot too emphatically urge the use of the hands as a means of stopping. No stopping can be safer or more sure than the hand. But then to do this there must be plenty of time, which will enable him after the stop to bring his stick into play, and so get rid of the ball.

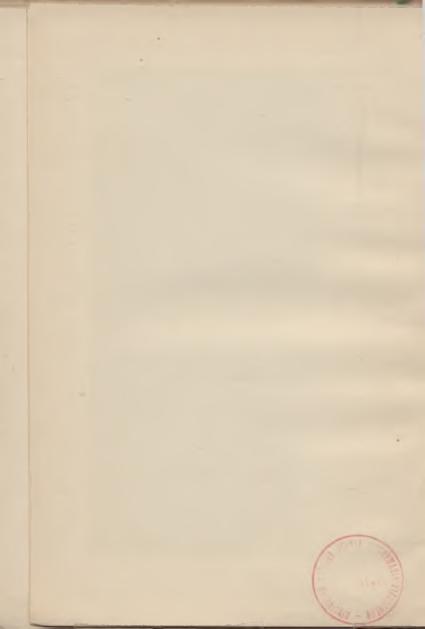
Stopping with his stick alone is a by no means safe

method to adopt. There are naturally occasions when nothing else is possible than for him to put out his stick in the direction of the ball, and trust that his judgment of its direction is a correct one. By the use of the word "trusting" an element of chance is no doubt implied. There is unquestionably a great element of chance in some of the wonderful saves with the stick one sees made from time to time. One man may be more clever than another in his saving, but he will frequently tell you that many of his finest saves have had an element of luck in them. He has done all in his power by watching the ball in its flight and direction, and has shoved out his stick accordingly to meet the charge. The fates were with him and he saved the goal. Five minutes later comes an exactly similar stroke from a similar angle, and this time he misses it, by a hair's breadth perhaps, but yet sufficient to allow the ball to get past him.

There is no doubt that great judgment is required in knowing "where" to stand and at what angle to put out the stick, and an experienced goal-keeper will more often be found on the right spot for combatting such a stroke than would a novice; but in no way wishing to underrate the abilities of the many excellent goal-keepers now playing, one cannot but think that at times fortune has smiled upon them and crowned their efforts with success.

Summing up the necessary requirements for a goalkeeper, one will first mention that he should keep a cool and steady head, and not be easily disturbed by trifles. He should never get flurried or depressed owing to his having been beaten. Let his motto be, "Better luck next time." He should always keep his eyes on the ball,





THE BACKS.

although his goal may not be in any immediate danger, and follow the game in all its vicissitudes, and he will thus be far better prepared when his time comes for dealing with the attack, and when that final attack does come and the ball is in his own circle, then his judgment will be called upon. Whether he should stay and await the attack entirely rests with him. If he considers that by rushing out to meet the ball he will have a better chance of overcoming the danger, then let him rush out at once. Once having made up his mind to rush out he must not hesitate. Hesitation will be fatal. He should press hard and quick on the attacker, and he will doubtless find the latter quite unprepared for the rapid onslaught, and the goal will be saved. Rushing out, however, unless he is quick on his legs, is rather a risky expedient, and should not be attempted unless he considers he can get to the ball before the intending striker has had time to get in a shot.

CHAPTER VII.

THE BACKS.

THE duties of right and left, the second line of defence, are so similar that they can be dealt with in one chapter. Their first object is naturally "to break up the attack, and so keep the opposing forwards from getting into the circle." They must consequently be very sound in their defence, and strong, reliable hitters. Since they must be so sure in their defence (as when once passed they will

find it no easy matter to get back in time to retrieve their mistake), they must use every effort to stop the ball before hitting it, and to this end they should use their feet, legs, or hands. They alone of all players, excepting perhaps the goal-keeper, can be generally advised to adopt the latter method of stopping, as they have more time, as a rule, to get in their stroke than have the halves or forwards. Their position should be about twenty-five yards behind the halves. Should the attack be developing in their own "twenty-five," and on the right side of the ground, or it may be the left, the back on that side of the ground should go a trifle forward to meet it, whilst the other back should not move away from his side of the striking circle. This should be a fixed maxim in his mind, and he must remember that as he is in the last line of defence, the goal-keeper without his near presence on the striking circle is rendered almost helpless to deal with an attack should it be suddenly transferred across to the other side of the circle. Having stopped the ball, it is their duty to make the best possible use of it. If sorely pressed, they cannot do better than hit it into touch, and as far down the field as possible. If not so sorely pressed, they should, seeing their opportunity, follow the example of the halves, and pass well up the field to one of their forwards. They should exercise great care, however, in indulging in the latter stroke, that they do not send the ball to one of the opposition. Should they do this they will doubtless find the attack again quickly pressed upon them. Reckless hitting on all occasions is absolutely useless, as it in no way benefits their side, but rather opens up many opportunities for their opponents.

HALF-BACKS.

They are *not* required to drive the ball with all the power at their command into the enemy's quarters. When this is done it is generally hit equally hard back again by one of the opposition backs, and the game will only deteriorate into a slogging match. Let backs remember, then, that a strong, quick stroke is all that is necessary, and although placed as they are so far down the field, they will have, should they only use their eyes and judgment, opportunities of sending many excellent passes to their forwards, and so carry the attack to the other end of the ground.

CHAPTER VIII.

HALF-BACKS.

UPON the half-backs, the first line of defence, very largely depends the success of the forwards. They are undoubtedly the hardest worked of any of the players, for not only have they to keep within about eight yards of the forwards whilst attacking, but have also to bear the major portion of the defence when their own side is being attacked.

A very frequent mistake made by half-backs is that they fail to keep close enough to their forwards, and are so unable to act in support of their attack. Not only does the mere fact of their being close at hand enable them to stop and return the ball as soon as it has reached them, owing perhaps to a forward having missed it, but it also enables them to break up the combination of the opposing

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forwards before they can become really dangerous. Having broken up such an attack, their first duty, and undoubtedly their most important one, is to feed the forwards, and so enable the latter to again continue the attack. It is a hard-worked position, and only those who are possessed of a good stamina and sound wind can adequately undertake the position.

Of the three, centre, as in the case of the forwards, undoubtedly takes pride of place. In his position he is able, more than any of the others, to effectively break up an attack. He should pay marked attention to the centre forward opposed to him, and as the latter is generally the initiator of any combined run, it will be seen how his position, and the way in which he fills it, is a very large factor towards spoiling the attack of his opponents. In his passing also sound judgment must be shown. Playing as he does in a direct line behind his centre forward, the success of the latter in making his passes largely depends upon him. He must, and this applies to the other halves as well, give his passes without delay. Nothing is more annoying to a forward, in a favourable position and anxiously waiting a pass, than to see his half pottering about with the ball and attempting to dribble instead of passing immediately. Valuable time is wasted, and when the ball is eventually passed, the forward will in all probability be surrounded, and in such an unfavourable position that he cannot now do any possible good with it.

In addition to feeding his centre, he must not neglect his wing forwards. Time and again it may so happen that the centre is so closely watched that no advantage is obtained by passing to him. A judicious pass to one of the outside wings, however, would greatly relieve the





HALF-BACKS.

pressure, and, in addition, would probably allow a far better opening for making an attack on the opponents' goal. He should rarely use his hands for stopping, but rely only on his feet or stick. In this way he saves time. He must render assistance to whichever of his wing halves is hard pressed, but directly the pressure is relieved should return at once to his former position.

The duties of the two wing halves, both as regards attack and defence, are very similar to those of the centre. Both must thoroughly understand the art of feeding and the necessity for quick action. Wing halves generally adopt the plan, and it is undoubtedly the right one, of keeping well out near the touch-line, in order to successfully cope with the wing forwards against them. Whilst doing all in their power to prevent the outside forward receiving passes, they must not forget that they have also to mark the inside man, who will do all in his power to entice the half away from the wing player, and so give the latter an opportunity of getting away.

Right half is in a better position for tackling the wing player than is the left half, in that he is on the right side of the player, whilst left half always runs the risk of being penalized for a foul, should he, in attempting to get across his opposing forward, who is coming down the field at full speed, touch him before he can reach the ball. Right half, on the other hand, will have his opponent on his right hand, and will thus have no fear of being penalized.

In the matter of stopping the ball, right half is also more advantageously placed. Barring the passes from the outside wing player, all others come from the right to the left, and are capable of being intercepted with the

stick, whilst in the case of left half, he must very largely depend on his feet and stick, the point turned towards the ground, in order to prevent an intended pass getting by him. So frequently will players, whose positions are on the left side of the ground, be called upon to intercept passes in this manner, that one cannot impress upon them too strongly the necessity of becoming proficient in this method of defence.

CHAPTER IX.

THE FORWARDS.

THE "line of attack" they have been called elsewhere, as upon them devolves the duty of carrying the attack into their opponents' quarters, and, whenever possible, of putting a finishing touch to their attacks by scoring goals. Of the five, undoubtedly the hardest position is that of the centre. Upon him devolves the combination, or at times lack of it, of the whole front rank. However good the wing players may be, they cannot be expected to perform as well as they undoubtedly would do unless the centre position is filled by one who is not only entirely free from all suspicion of selfishness, but who, in addition, thoroughly understands the advantages to be obtained by combination, or, in other words, successful passing. By passing is meant the fact of one player transferring the ball to another when the passer considers that by so transferring the ball he is giving it to one who is more advantageously placed than himself. Upon the

THE FORWARDS.

centre forward falls the duty of starting a combined movement. No team can possibly hope ever to command success unless they thoroughly appreciate the art of combination. The mere presence of an unselfish centre forward makes all the difference in the world as to whether an attack will be effective or not. By unselfishness we do not wish to imply the getting rid of the ball at almost the very moment a pass has been received. By such passing nothing is gained; in fact, the probability is that an advantage is lost.

Like all other forwards centre must be able to take a pass on his stick, and in such a way that he can at once, should necessity arise, be able to send on the ball elsewhere without delay. Should he not be an adept at taking it upon his stick, he will always have to be stooping down and stopping it with his hand. Before hitting it he will again have to rise to a striking position. Think of the time wasted in going through these latter manœuvres. It may be that it only takes a second or so, but this second wasted makes all the difference between a good and a bad player, and the good player will rely on his stick alone to take his pass, whilst the bad one will be continually stopping the ball with his hand before being able to proceed any farther. It is merely a question of practice. Of course a good eye is a necessity, but blessed with such a gift there is absolutely no reason, provided the ground is level and true, why a forward should ever on any single occasion, from the very commencement to the end of a game, make use of his hands.

Centre forward must use judgment as to his passes. He must, almost by instinct and without glancing to see, know where his other forwards are placed, and which wing

is in the best and most favourable position for receiving a pass. Having taken in the situation, his pass, to be of any use, must be made with precision and of such a pace that it will not travel either at so slow a pace as to allow its being intercepted by an opponent, or so fast that it will go flying past the would-be recipient.

The pass should be sent a foot or so in front, so that it will allow the would-be receiver to reach it whilst going at top speed, and in no way necessitate his slackening his pace. Centre forward should always keep his place, that is, about the centre of the ground, and moving parallel to either side-line. More license is certainly allowed him than the other forwards, as should he consider that by moving more over to one wing than another he can materially help that wing, then by all means he should move in that direction, but on no account must he do so if he will in any way cramp the play on that wing. Combined play to be effective must be kept open, and by his moving more to one wing than the other he may so cramp up the play on that wing that progress is impossible. It is a fairly easy matter for a defending half to completely spoil an attempt at combination by three men who are all so close together that they are practically touching each other, but the half will find it a very different thing if he has to contend against three forwards thoroughly conversant with the art of passing, who keep about ten yards apart whilst making a combined run. No sooner does he rush at one to tackle him than the ball is at once transferred to the inside player, and, turning his attention to him, he finds the ball has gone elsewhere. He is completely baffled by the quick passing.

THE FORWARDS.

The centre should distribute his work as much as possible between his two wings. He will naturally, should one wing be stronger than the other, give more work to the stronger wing, but as a general rule careful distribution in his passing will considerably improve the combination of the whole line.

We will now turn to the question-How should he pass in his own territory, and how when in that of his opponents? In the former instance he should undoubtedly pass hard out to his wing players, as by so doing he not only gets the ball well away from his own goal, but he will frequently find that his wing player is left unmarked when a warm attack is being made on his own goal. Should the wing player fail to take the pass the ball will in every probability go into touch, and danger is thus, for the time being at any rate, averted. When nearing his opponent's quarters his passes should be generally sent to the two inside players. By so doing he is keeping the ball well within reach of the striking circle. Here again, however, should he find himself well marked, as also his two inside players, a judicious pass to the outside wing may bear good fruit. The defence, naturally anxious for the safety of their goal, will be drawn towards the circle, leaving the wing man unmarked. By passing out to him the defence around the circle is immediately somewhat lessened, and the centre and inside players consequently less marked than before the pass was made. The outside wing on receiving such a pass should at once return it back hard to the centre. who may now find himself in a better position than he had been before, and able to get in a shot at goal.

CHAPTER X.

INSIDE LEFT.

THE duties of inside left and inside right are practically identical; but as there are one or two features in which their play varies somewhat, we will deal with them separately.

The special duty of each is to feed the outside player, and in this position he acts as the connecting link between himself and the centre forward. Owing to the habit now usually adopted by wing half-backs of marking the outside player, inside-left will not find it always an easy matter to pass out to his wing, and must therefore use great judgment, both as to the way he passes out and to the direction of his passes. Perhaps the best way for him to cope successfully with the attention the half-back is paying to his partner is to pass the ball in front of him and at such an angle as to go behind the half-back, trusting to the superior pace of his wing man to get the pass before the half has been able to turn round and intercept it. Such passes, however, must be made with great care. If sent too fast, they are most liable to go into touch before they can be reached by the intending receiver; and if too slow, the half may be able to get in front, and so spoil the manœuvre. Should he find that his partner is so closely marked that he cannot in any way get the ball at once out to him, it devolves upon him to devise some way of carrying out his object, and to this end he should try to draw the defence upon

INSIDE LEFT.

himself and away from the wing. Having received the ball, he should make a feint of passing and run towards his opponent's goal. The half, doubtless thinking no pass will be attempted, will in all probability make a rush for him. Now is his opportunity. The defence has been relaxed from his confrère, and he is now able to get the ball safely out to him. Supposing, however, that the defence refused to be drawn, what is he to do? Shall he go on and try to get into the circle himself, or what other plan is left open to him? Is there not the centre forward waiting on his other side, ready to receive the ball? The centre half, noting that the inside left is becoming dangerous, will at once move forward to tackle him. Without delay inside left should turn the ball over to the centre, now momentarily free; and the latter, from his position, may be able to get the ball out to the wing man-a move which inside left without help would have been unable to accomplish.

To inside left falls the somewhat unpleasant task of receiving the ball from touch. Placed as he is on the wrong side of the ball, it is no easy matter for him to obtain possession of it. The opposing forward, standing as he is, close up to him, and in a natural position for hitting, *i.e.* right to left, has a far finer opportunity for taking advantage of the "throw in." All that the inside left can do is, immediately the ball leaves the thrower's hand, to rush towards it and try and return it to the thrower. If he fails in this it cannot be helped. He has tried the only feasible plan, and he should in addition consider himself somewhat lucky if in his attempt to get at the ball he has not been hit over the shins.

It is a greatly debated question as to which of the two

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inside players, left or right, holds the easiest position for shooting. Many stand up for the one and many for the other, but there can be no two opinions as to the advantage held by inside left in "rushing" a goal. A shot has been made either by the centre or inside right, which the goal-keeper has stopped. If inside left is on the alert, he is in a most favourable position for rushing in and returning the shot. He is nearly always at a natural angle for shooting; and if the ball has glanced off the goal-keeper a little to the right, he will generally have an easy and unhampered shot. Inside left, more than any of the other forwards, should be ready for the "rush." A goal-keeper having saved a warm shot has still to clear the ball away, and whilst he is getting ready to do this inside left's opportunity occurs Many and many a goal has been scored through the alertness of the inside left following up the shot of another.

CHAPTER XI.

OUTSIDE LEFT.

IF it should be asked, Which of the forwards is in the most awkward position? the answer would in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred be—The outside left. The reason is not far to seek, in that all his strokes have to be made from left to right, whilst the natural position for hitting is from right to left. When stationary, or going at a slow pace, it is easy enough to hit from left to right, but when going at a fast pace—and this accomplishment an outside

OUTSIDE LEFT.

left should undoubtedly possess-it is a very different thing. The ball is not passed to outside left merely that he shall indulge in a fast sprint, and then lose possession through being tackled. It is sent to him rather that he should draw the defence away from the centre, and then, when the defence is so weakened, to return it at once. How is outside left, therefore, placed as he is in such an awkward position, to get his passes back to the middle of the ground? He has one of two alternatives. The first is to keep the ball well under control, and about two feet away on his right side, and just in front of him. In this position he can drive the ball across the ground at the necessary angle. As in the making of this pass he would be in danger of giving sticks, he should make full use of his wrists, where no risk of being penalized would occur. The other alternative open to him for passing, is to stop dead suddenly and make the ball do likewise. The defence, somewhat disconcerted by this sudden stop, will allow him time to get the ball away in the direction he requires with his back to the side-line. It has been said that pace is required, but the player must take great care that owing to his excessive pace he does not overrun the ball, but should keep complete control over it. He should never run too far down the ground. No benefit is derived from his getting right down into the corner of the ground. The chances are that in this position he will be so hemmed in that he cannot get in a pass at all. His passes should therefore be made at about the "twenty-five" flag. At this point the remaining forwards would be in good positions for receiving the pass.

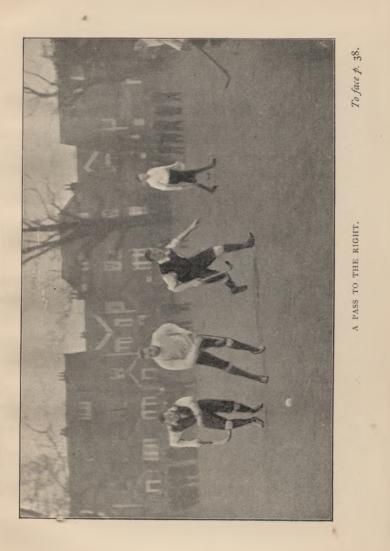
Another difficulty with which he has to contend is that

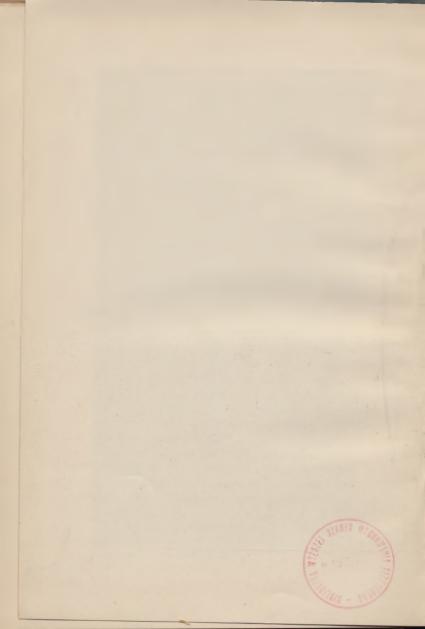
of stopping the ball from touch. Coming, as it does, from right to left and in front of him, he must rely either on his pace or his cleverness with his stick for saving it. As he should avoid, as far as possible, making use of his hands, he will frequently have to save with his stick alone. To do this in his position, his stick will have to be reversed, the point turned towards the ground. It is, indeed, a hard stroke to become an adept at, and requires a deal of practice, but the wing player who is proficient in this method of stopping is worth a great deal to his side. He saves much time from the fact that he in no way need check his pace whilst running. In addition, he is able to keep the game much more open; and on the wing man, perhaps more than any of the others, depends, to a great extent, the fact whether the game be kept open or not. Open play is necessary, for without it combination is impossible.

CHAPTER XII.

INSIDE RIGHT.

THE methods to be adopted by inside right have been somewhat fully dealt with in the chapter on inside left. It has been there shown how inside left is the connecting link between the centre and the wing player, and inside right holds a similar position on the right. Ever mindful of his partner, he must not neglect his centre forward. He should adopt the same methods in his passing and in his attempts to draw off the defence from his wing.





His place, however, is an easier one to fill, merely from the fact that all his passes, excepting those to his partner, are made from right to left, and, in the case of passes sent to him, they also, should they be properly directed, come at a natural angle.

In play from touch, however, he holds a decided advantage. If the ball is thrown as it should be, fairly fast, and about two feet to his right hand, it is an absolute impossibility for the opposing forward to be able to reach it. Inside right will hit the ball back to the thrower in, who, in his turn, if marked by the opposing half, will again return it to the striker. By these successive zig-zag passes, the right wing would be able to get clear of all opposition. Presuming they have done so, and that inside right has reached the magic circle, his first thought should be, Am I better placed for shooting than my centre forward? If, in his opinion, he is, then he should put in his shot at once, and as hard as he possibly can, and in the direction of either goal-post. He should aim at either post, in that the goal-keeper would, in all probability, be standing in the centre of the goal, and would consequently have to make a very quick move so as to get in front of the shot. Should, however, he consider he is not well placed for shooting, he must pass at once, without a moment's delay, to another in a more favourable position. The great object is that a goal should be scored, and he must be ever mindful-and this applies to all others that, to win the game, goals must be obtained. This is impossible if a feeling of selfishness marks the play of any individual member.

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CHAPTER XIII.

OUTSIDE RIGHT.

By reason of his having all his opponents on the wrong side of him, this position is generally looked upon as an easy one to fill. Not only has he always to pass in a way natural to him, but passes to him come also at a natural angle. Out of touch, he has always an easy task in the same way as the inside player, and, with his partner's assistance, can most readily get away from the defence when he himself has to make the "throw in."

The difficulties in the path of outside left in saving from touch in no way beset outside right. Unless the ground be rough and the pass sent behind him, his stick alone should be sufficient to keep the ball in play. If he wishes to "play the game," he must keep his place, *i.e.* close on the touch line, and should never expect to score a goal himself. He will have, instead, the satisfaction of knowing that by his clever run and final pass he has had a great deal to do with the goal scored by another. As with the player on the other wing, he should pass as soon as he reaches the "twenty-five" flag; it may be either to his inside man, if the latter is in a good position, or hard across to the centre or left wing. The hard pass, however, should be his usual effort, if only from the fact that, at the time of the pass, the defence is somewhat drawn to his side of the ground, and the players in the centre and left wing are consequently more free and unmarked than

THE UMPIRES.

the inside right. His pass should be directed a little in front of the player for whom it is intended, and, if possible, behind the defending halves.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE UMPIRES.

THE question of competent umpires is a most important one. What would otherwise have been a good and splendidly-contested match may easily be spoiled by the presence of an incompetent umpire. The position is at no time a very agreeable one. He has all the responsibility placed on his shoulders for the satisfactory progress of the game, and his office is no sinecure. The plan generally adopted is that in a match each side shall provide its own umpire; one umpire taking over half of the ground, and dealing with all appeals in his half only, whilst the other umpire deals with the other half. Two umpires are an absolute necessity. The game is played over so large an area, and the ball travelling as it does from one end of the ground to the other with such rapidity, one man cannot possibly be expected to do the work thoroughly. The umpires should stand off the field of play, one on either side of the ground, and about equidistant between the halfway and corner flags.

This plan of each club supplying an umpire is undoubtedly open to the objection that an umpire taking an interest in his club's welfare is inclined to favour the

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appeals of his own club more than those of his opponents. It is no good disguising the fact that umpires have made mistakes—every one makes mistakes at times—and by so doing have benefited their own sides. By their mistakes their own sides have benefited, but it is impossible to say that they in giving a decision were not firmly convinced in their own minds of the soundness of such decisions.

In the rules it is stated that in addition to the two umpires a referee should be appointed whenever necessary. Owing to the present method of giving half the ground to one umpire, and the other half to another, the services of a referee are rarely, if ever, called in. This is perhaps fortunate, as the continual calling in of a referee to give his opinion on an umpire's decision would be to the detriment of a game. Long delays would be the result, and the game would probably merge into a wordy warfare, not only between the umpire and referee, but also between the players themselves.

In conclusion, an umpire should make up his mind quickly, and give his decision unhesitatingly. Having given his opinion, he should keep to it; should he do otherwise he will probably lose the respect of the players, and will raise doubts in their minds as to his capacity for filling the position. Should he have any doubt as to the fairness or legality of an appeal, he would do well if his decision went in favour of the side against whom the appeal was made.

CHAPTER XV.

PLAYING WITHOUT A GOAL-KEEPER.

THE practice of playing without a goal-keeper (the extra man thus freed being placed in the forward rank) was some few years back fairly generally adopted, but the system has now almost gone out of vogue. Molesey are an exception, as they alone of the chief clubs at the present time adopt the two-back game. Instead, however, of playing the extra man in the forward line, he occupies a roving position between the halves and backs, and is called a "flying half."

Perhaps the term flying half is a misnomer. The question is often asked—Has any one ever seen a "flying half" fly at the end of a match? So hard is his work, covering as he has to do practically the whole of the field of defence, that the man who is able to have a "dash" left in him at the end of a hardly-fought game must be, indeed, possessed of wonderful stamina and staying powers.

The argument of the Molesey club in playing without a man "between the sticks," is that in nine cases out of ten the goal-keeper saves more by luck than judgment. There is no doubt a great deal of truth in their argument, and as a proof of their contention one has only to look at the record of goals scored against them during the past five or six years to see how comparatively few have been obtained against the club.

When hard pressed, the back who is being attacked

tries all he can to prevent a shot being put in, whilst the other back, for the time being, goes into goal; but this is the only occasion when their goal is actually guarded.

The extra man holds a roving position; and owing to the licence allowed him of being able to help in the defence either on the right or left, as the case may be, he no doubt very materially helps in breaking up the combination of the opposing forwards before they can get into full swing, and so become dangerous. By this means they are prevented from getting into the circle as often as they otherwise would.

This is undoubtedly very sound policy where the ground is dry and firm, and the backs are able to turn easily and get into goal should occasion demand it. If, on the other hand, the surface is heavy and sodden, the conditions are altered, and the two-back system is not as effective. A heavy back has not much chance when once he has been passed, of overtaking a speedy forward. The latter, with no goal-keeper in front of him, has the goal at his mercy, and it can only be through his own carelessness that a goal is not obtained. Had there been a goal-keeper his chance of scoring would have been considerably lessened. Not only would he have, with a man in front of him, to take more care over his final shot, but he would also, in order to take such care, have to somewhat slacken his pace, which would give the returning back more time in which to come up to him, and so hamper his shot at goal.

Attacked both in rear and front, he would probably lose the ball altogether. Between the two he is far more likely to fail than he would have been had he had no goal-keeper in front of him.

Molesey have always been very fortunate in possessing a fine defence. Their two backs have always been sound, reliable players; whilst their half-back line has been second to none. They have consequently played under exceptional circumstances, and as they find it answers so well, there can be no reason for them to revert to the usual method. Other clubs, however, not possessed of so strong a defence, have from time to time tried the experiment, but have not found it a satisfactory one, and have consequently not been long in again resorting to the usual plan of keeping a man "between the posts."

CHAPTER XVI.

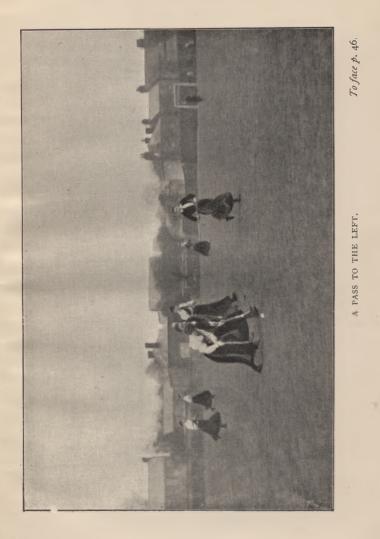
HOCKEY FOR LADIES.

GREAT as has been the increasing popularity of the game amongst men, it can be safely said that amongst women its increasing popularity is even still more marked. But a few years ago the very thought of women taking part in such a pastime was looked upon with disfavour. We find at the present time a very different state of affairs existing. No longer is it considered improper for them to take part in such a mannish exercise as hockey. On the contrary, this view has become untenable both as regards its propriety and fitness, owing to the fact that they now play an important part in most outdoor pastimes. There is not a game, football perhaps alone excluded—and even that for a short time was

indulged in by a few-in which women do not now take a keen and active interest. Of all these games hockey undoubtedly holds the chief position. As a game for women, when played amongst themselves, there can be no two opinions as to its fitness, providing, as it undoubtedly does, a most healthy form of exercise. As all things have small beginnings, so it has been with women's hockey. A few years back we find but few clubs in existence, but we now see clubs in full swing all over the country; in fact, one can almost go as far as saying that there are more clubs in existence of the gentle than there are of the sterner sex. Women are nothing if not progressive; and as we find men's hockey governed by an Association, so do we now find an All-England Women's Association established on a firm basis, and worked, with but very little difference, on the same lines as the All-England Men's Hockey Association. Some of the bye-laws naturally differ in some few respects, but as regards the rules and regulations of the game they are one and the same. As the points of the game have been commented on earlier, it would be only a repetition were they to be again touched upon here. The same remark also applies to the positions of the players on the field and the different means adopted by each in their several positions. Both sexes, in order to ensure success, must look upon the game in one and the same light, and just as a man is told to avoid playing with one hand, or to be careful and avoid giving sticks, so must a woman take the same lessons to heart.

Regarding their personal equipment, it will be found that the stick, shin-pads, gloves, boots (in preference to shoes) should as far as possible be identical with those

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HOCKEY FOR LADIES.

adopted by men. The stick, either for a back or a forward, should be perhaps lighter, but of course the weight will entirely depend on the strength of the wielder. As a general rule, two or three ounces lighter than those of a man will be found ample. With regard to its length, it should be, if anything, on the short side, in order that it may be easily handled, and not, owing to its length, be cumbersome to the holder.

Flannel shirts should be worn in preference to cotton. On a cold day they provide the necessary warmth, whilst, should the weather be mild, but little risk will be run of catching a chill. One often hears the remark made "that ladies in starting a club agree unanimously as to the rules and regulations, but as soon as the question of dress and club colours is mentioned disagreement follows." A cotton shirt with white collar and tie undoubtedly looks neater and smarter than does a flannel one, but it cannot be too strongly urged that comfort is necessary as well as appearance; and as the game is one in which comfort is essential, flannel shirts should be worn in preference to any other The one great drawback to quick movement is the skirt. To obviate this drawback as much as possible, the skirt should be worn so that it does not hang lower than six inches from the ground. This will be found sufficiently short, and will at any rate allow far freer movement than if the skirt be allowed to trail on the ground.

The one advantage a skirt possesses is that it can be freely used as a means for stopping the ball. It is no easy matter to get a ball past a broad and loosely hanging skirt; it is hard enough as it is to get past a man, but the skirt offers far more difficulties. Although a safe

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means of stopping, it is hardly an elegant one, and, in addition, the ball may easily get lost in the folds. It is therefore advisable, when about to tackle an opponent, to rely more on the foot, hand, or stick than on the skirt. Safer though the latter method may be, it would undoubtedly be conforming more to the spirit of the rules were the use of the skirt, as a means of stopping, as far as possible discarded. One does not wish to imply that skirt-stopping is illegal, but rather to show that the one who does not rely too frequently on her skirt to stop the ball is a better and more promising player than the one who relies on her skirt on every conceivable occasion.

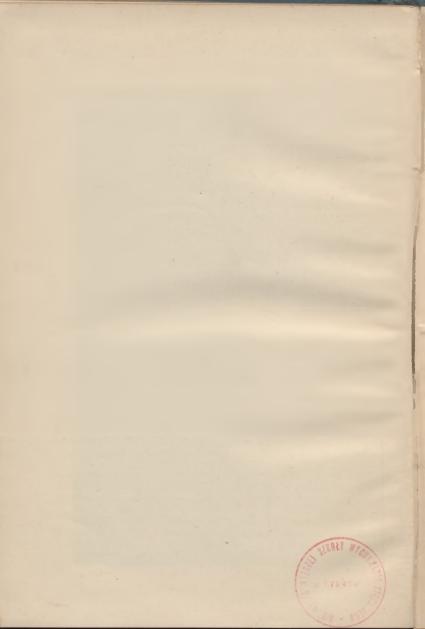
Straw hats, or hats with hard brims and long protruding pins should never be worn; in fact, they are forbidden by the laws of the Association. If a hat should be required, either a tam o' shanter or soft cloth one should be worn.

Owing to a woman's inability to move as quickly as a man, the game as played between them is naturally not so fast. Otherwise, however, all the points occurring in a game are identical; and rather than repeat in this short chapter the same ideas as have been expressed in previous chapters, it will in conclusion be sufficient to give three axioms, which should ever be present to the woman player. Firstly, "Make up your mind quickly, and act upon it." Secondly, "Be ever unselfish in your passing," for without this combination is impossible, and combination is the only road to success. And lastly, but by no means least, "Obey your captain implicitly." The captain is alone responsible for the proper working of the whole team, and you alone represent but one part of the whole.



To face p. 48

WAITING FOR A PASS.



THE RULES.

1. A hockey team shall number eleven players, unless otherwise agreed by the respective captains.

2. The ground shall be one hundred yards long, and not more than sixty nor less than fifty yards wide, marked with white lines, and with a flag at each corner; the longer sides to be called the "side lines," and the shorter sides the "goal lines."

3. The goals shall be in the centre of each goal-line, and shall consist of two uprights, twelve feet apart, with a horizontal bar, seven feet from the ground.

4. In front of each goal shall be drawn a line, twelve feet long, parallel to the goal-line, and fifteen yards from it. The ends of this line shall be curved round to the goal-lines by quarter circles, of which the goal-posts form the centres; this line to be called the "striking-circle."

5. The ball shall be an ordinary cricket ball, painted white.

6. The sticks shall have no metal fittings whatever, and no sharp edges, and they must be able to pass through a ring two inches in diameter.

7. No player is to have any metal spikes or projecting nails in his boots or shoes.

8. The choice of goals shall be tossed for at the beginning of the game, and the teams shall change ends at half-time.

9. The game shall be started by one player of each side "bullying" the ball in the centre of the ground, and after each goal and after half-time, there shall be a "bully" in the centre of the ground. The "bully" shall be played as follows : Each player is to strike the ground on his own side of the ball, and his opponent's stick over the ball, three times alternately ; after which either of the two players only shall be at liberty to strike the ball.

10. In all cases of a "bully" and "penalty bully," the two

players who are "bullying" shall stand facing the side lines. Every other player shall be between the ball and his own goal-line, except in case of a "penalty bully."

11. A goal is scored when the ball has passed entirely over the line between the goal-posts under the bar, the ball having, whilst within the striking-circle, been hit or glanced off the stick of a player on the attacking side.

12. When a player hits the ball, any other player of the same side who is nearer his opponents' goal-line at the moment when the ball is hit is off-side, unless there be at least three of his opponents nearer their own goal-line; and he may not touch the ball himself, nor approach, nor remain within five yards of it, nor in any way interfere with any other player until the ball has been touched or hit by one of the other side.

13. The ball may be caught (but must be at once dropped on the ground) or stopped with any part of the body; but it must not be picked up, carried, kicked, knocked on or back. except with the stick. There shall be no play with the back of the stick; and no charging, kicking, collaring, shinning, or tripping shall be allowed. Fencing or hooking sticks is allowable only when one of the players is within striking distance of the ball. A player may hook the stick but not the person of an opponent. A player should not run in between his opponent and the ball so as to obstruct him, nor cross him from the left so as to foul him. In the event of a player crossing from the left and touching the ball before touching his opponent, it shall not be considered a foul. The goal-keeper, who shall be named by his captain before the commencement of the game, shall, however, be allowed to kick the ball, except in the case of a "penalty bully," so long as it is within the striking-circle.

14. When a player strikes at the ball, his stick must not during any portion of the stroke rise above his shoulder. And no player may interfere in any way with the game unless his stick be in his hand.

15. On the occasion of a free hit, no member of the offending side shall be within five yards of the spot where such hit is made; and the striker must not touch the ball again until it has touched or been hit by another player.

16. The penalty for any breach of Rules 12, 13, 14, and 15, committed outside the striking-circle, shall be a "free hit"

by one of the opposite side, on the spot where the rule was broken.

For any breach of Rules 12, 13, 14, and 15, by the attacking side, committed inside the striking-circle, a free hit may be claimed by the defending side. For any breach of Rules 12 and 15 committed by the defending side inside the striking-circle, the attacking side can only claim "a bully." For any breach of Rule 17 by the defending side, the attacking side may claim a "penalty bully" on the original spot, where the breach occurred, such "penalty bully" to be taken by the same players; and for any breach by the attacking side, the defending side shall, on appeal, be allowed a free hit. No claim for such breach of rules by the defaulting side to be allowed.

17. For any breach of Rules 13 and 14 (except so far as Rule 14 applies to "sticks," for which a "bully" only to be allowed) committed by the defending side inside the striking-circle, the attacking side may claim a "penalty bully," such "penalty bully" (from which a goal may be scored direct) to be between the offender and one player selected by the other side, and to take place at the spot where the breach occurs. At the time of the "penalty bully" both the defending and attacking sides the until the striking-circle, and the ball shall not be in play for either side until driven outside the striking-circle, when all players shall be on-side. The "p budy bully" to be in the direction of the referee, if one, and f none other unpire in whose half the breach occurs, whe shall have power to award a "bully" only.

18. When the ball passes over the "side line" it shall be rolled out along the ground from where it crossed the line by one of the opposite side to that of the player who last touched it, in any direction except forward. No other player shall stand within five yards of the player rolling in the ball. The ball may be rolled out at once. The player who rolls it out must stand with both feet behind the side line, and must not touch the ball again until it has touched or been hit by another player.

19. When a breach of Rules 9, 10, or 18 occurs, the referee, or, in his absence, an umpire, shall sound his whistle, without waiting for an appeal to be made, and direct that the "bully" or "roll-in" from touch takes place again.

20. If the ball is hit behind the goal-line by the attacking side, it shall be brought out twenty-five yards, in a direction at right angles to the goal-line, from a point where it crossed the line, and then "bullied;" but if the ball glance off, or is hit behind by any player of the defending side behind the twenty-five yard line, a player of the attacking side shall have a free hit from a point on the side or goal-line within a yard of the nearest corner flag; and at the moment of such hit all the defending side must be behind their goalline, and all the attacking side must be outside the strikingcircle, provided that no goal can be scored from such free hit by the attacking side until the ball has been stopped dead by one of the attacking side, or has previously touched the person or stick of one of the defending side.

21. Should there be no umpire, or umpires, appointed by the two captains, the captains shall be arbitrators in all disputes, and should two umpires or arbitrators fail to agree, they must appoint a referee, whose decisions shall be final. Where there are two umpires, but no referee, each umpire to take half the field. and to give decisions in his half only, but to take the whole of one side-line, the field to be divided across by a line, drawn at right angles to the side-lines, through the centre of the ground. The two umpires shall not cross over at half-time.

22. On an appeal for rough play, the umpire shall have a discretionary power to warn the offending player, and if the offence be repeated, to suspend him from further participation in the game.

23. When a player (in the opinion of the referee, or, in his absence, of an umpire) is temporarily incapacitated, the umpire (if no referee) shall suspend the game immediately. When the game is resumed, the ball shall be "bullied" off on the spot where, in the opinion of the umpire (if no referee), the ball was when the player was hurt.

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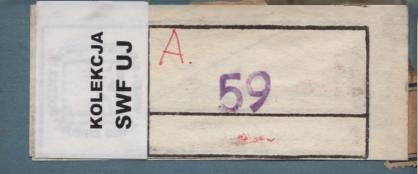
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