

OBSERVERS' NOTES.

THE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP.

The weather in most parts of England on Saturday was shockingly bad, and a couple of League games had to be abandoned in consequence of the high wind and deluge of rain. Of the matches brought to a finish the most interesting perhaps were those in which the clubs fighting to escape the bottom two were engaged. The Albion did a splendid thing in going to Newcastle and drawing with the United, who usually consider themselves safe for a couple of points at home. Even better than this, however, was the achievement of the Pottery team, who travelled to Bramall Lane and beat Sheffield United by 4 goals to 0. After seeing Stoke play the Villa two or three times I could never understand why they were so low down the list, and perhaps Saturday's show is an earnest of what we may expect now the Cup ties are upon us. Wolverhampton could only draw with Derby County, this being the one solitary match in which neither side succeeded in finding the net. Notts County continue to travel in gallant fashion, and by their victory over Sheffield Wednesday have passed the Villa, with a couple of games in hand. There was a terrific struggle at Aston, and as the Villa were only able to draw with Sunderland they dropped a point in comparison with last season. They certainly deserved a couple of points, but fortune was against them. They are now sixth on the list, with every prospect of finishing still lower down. The Albion are bracketed with Preston North End at the bottom, but with a game to the good they could hand over that position to Stoke. There is indeed very little to choose between Stoke, West Bromwich, and Bolton, but Preston seem to be hopelessly left at the bottom. Small Heath head the Second Division, with Burnley and Grimsby Town in close attendance. It looks very much like a keen fight to the finish. The following are present percentages of the clubs in comparison with the corresponding period of last season:—

	Points.	Out of a possible.	Per cent.	Cor. week last year.
Notts Forest	31	46	67	55
Newcastle United	27	42	64	50
Sunderland	29	46	63	61
Bury	27	44	61	58
Notts County	27	46	58	36
Liverpool	24	42	57	32
Everton	25	46	54	42
Aston Villa	26	50	52	72
Sheffield Wednesday	21	44	47	—
Manchester City	22	46	47	44
Sheffield United	22	46	47	33
Blackburn Rovers	21	46	45	40
Derby County	21	48	43	50
Wolverhampton W'nd'rs..	20	46	43	63
Stoke	18	46	39	52
Bolton Wanderers	17	44	38	—
West Bromwich Albion ..	17	44	38	44
Preston North End.....	15	48	31	33