

ACCIDENT AT THE HAWTHORNS.

THIEVES' OPPORTUNITY.

The crowd at the Hawthorns football ground yesterday afternoon was so great that every available coign of vantage was occupied. There were plenty of spectators on the roofs of the houses outside the ground. Inside many climbed on to the roof of the refreshment room at the Birmingham Road end. Suddenly the beams gave way, and about 50 people were thrown to the ground. Many got off with slight scratches and bruises, but one elderly gentleman was rather seriously injured. The barmaids were naturally very much alarmed, and took their flight, and during their absence the whole of the money that had been taken during the afternoon was stolen, together with many bottles of beer and other intoxicants.

The roof consisted of corrugated iron on wooden beams, and adjoined the cycling shed. A portion of the same roof gave way during the Albion and Villa match two seasons ago, damaging many bicycles that were stored underneath. The Albion directors had to pay compensation. In future policemen will be posted at the spot to prevent people climbing up.