GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB
(FOUNDED IN 1873)

TO-DAY'S GAME IS VERSUS
CIVIL SERVICE
(KICK-OFF 3-0 p.m.)

NEXT WEEK'S GAME:
Saturday—UNITED v. BATH UNITED
Saturday, Feb. 19th—UNITED v. CHELTENHAM U.

NEXT FIRST XV HOME GAME:
February 26th — CARDIFF

NEW TO KINGSHOLM

We welcome to Kingsholm to-day a XV new to the ground in the Civil Service. In view of their clash with the Army last week, when the Civil Service were unlucky losers by a point—an attempt at a conversion from an easy position decided the issue—our side must not make the mistake of underrating the opposition. If there is one phase of play in which the Services side excels it is with the forwards. The Army found this out to their cost, so we may expect a ding-dong struggle to-day between the respective packs. In any case, we look for a good open game, so that the Civil Service side will go from Kingsholm with happy memories of their first appearance here.
A NOTABLE ABSENTEE

It is unfortunate a County call will prevent one great player from turning out for the Civil Service to-day in the person of V. G. Roberts. He was not however in the side which held the Army so well. Among the visiting threes may be C. G. Woodruff, who has played for Cheltenham and Gloucestershire.

ONE REASON ONLY

There have been many comments on the smallness of the attendance at the Gloucester v. Bristol match, played on the same day as the Wales v. England clash at Arms Park, Cardiff. The comments have included a number of alleged reasons for the falling off, including that of the poor playing record Gloucester has in the present season. The truth of the matter is that many went to Cardiff or stayed at home to take advantage of Radio or Television descriptions. The most futile criticism was that Gloucester was to blame for playing Bristol on the day of an International at Cardiff. Had the game been played on its proper date, Gloucester would have been in London playing the Wasps and our gate receipts would not have suffered for the game against Bristol. On the same Saturday Cheltenham had an attractive fixture with Northampton; the attendance was no better, and indeed was smaller than at Kingsholm.

YOUR HELP REQUIRED

It is often a criticism that "NOTHING IS DONE FOR YOUNG RUGBY PLAYERS" in Gloucester. Yes, you've heard it but because you buy this programme every week for 3d. you are doing something practical to meet the criticism. But does your friend on the next row to you buy one or does he borrow yours? Far too many programmes have been unsold lately, and the consequence is that the War Memorial Ground Fund suffers. The logical sequence will be that that Fund will not be able, properly, to achieve its aim of setting out and equipping the ground in Tufley Avenue and if that becomes the case, Junior rugger in Gloucester will never get the fillip it deserves.

Do YOUR BEST please to get your friends to invest 3d. a week to buy a programme at home matches for the benefit of the Fund and young footballers.

WORDS TO THE WISE

Writing about young footballers brings to mind that a team of South African Schoolboys is on a three weeks' tour in this country. And after a game in Wales, one newspaper critic said they recalled the 1951-52 Springbok side in these words (and there is a lesson in them for those who will read them and apply them):—

"There was the same well-drilled forward play, the same backing-up, the same devastating crash tackling; the same mastery of those first essentials—handling, passing, kicking."

There are, indeed, plenty of hints there for all rugby players who wish to improve the standard of their own game and that of their club.

THE NEXT HOME FIXTURE

For the next two weeks Gloucester will be away at Bath and Swansea. Then comes the outstanding fixture of the season—the game with Cardiff. We remember that the City were unlucky to lose at Arms Park and we shall all hope to see our XV victorious here. For this match, seats in the Wing Stands will as usual be reserved for season ticket holders until 15 minutes before the kick-off.