

THE SHAFT ACCIDENT AT NEWTOWN MILL, MIRFIELD.—An inquest was held at the Forester's Arms, Huddersfield, yesterday evening, before J. R. Ingram, Esq., deputy coroner, on the body of Christopher Smith, plasterer, Dewsbury. It appeared that the deceased, on Tuesday week, was working in Newtown Mill, Mirfield, whitewashing over a shaft, when it caught him by his Guernsey smock and he was thrown round the shaft repeatedly. The engine was immediately stopped, the man released, attended by two medical men, and conveyed to the Huddersfield Infirmary. He died on Sunday afternoon from injuries sustained by severe bruises on his feet and a scalp wound on the forehead, resulting from his being violently thrown against a window whilst rapidly revolving with the shaft. It appears from the evidence that the deceased had been twice cautioned against approaching the shaft; that the mill had been closed four days for whitewashing purposes, and on several days only kept running from eight a.m. to four p.m. on the same account; that had there been a little management on the part of the whitewasher, the room in which the shafting was placed might have been whitewashed when the machinery was at a standstill; also, that if ordinary care had been used by the deceased himself after the cautions he had received he would not have been caught. Under these circumstances the jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and recommended greater precautions to be taken as to what rooms were whitewashed whilst machinery was in motion in future, but abstained from censuring any person in connection with the death of the deceased.