

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE RAILWAY.—Yesterday Mr. W. Barstow, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the Huddersfield Infirmary, touching the death of a guard, named Joseph Field, of South-parade, Mirfield, 27 years of age, who died at the Infirmary on Sunday last, from injuries received by him somewhat mysteriously on the Cleckheaton branch of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, at Mirfield, either late on Saturday evening or early on Sunday morning last. From the evidence it appeared that he left duty at a quarter to three on Saturday, and at six o'clock left home, saying he was going to Cleckheaton with a friend. At eleven o'clock a fireman named Smith saw the deceased on the platform at Mirfield station, and told him to go home, as he thought he was not fit to be where he was, being the worse for drink. The deceased said he was going home, but must go "down there" first, meaning towards the Cleckheaton branch. Smith's engine had to leave just then, and he did not see the deceased afterwards. About a quarter-past three an engine-driver named Holland, in charge of a luggage train from Preston to Normanton, whilst his train was proceeding along the Cleckheaton branch, saw something lying in the six-foot and had the engine stopped. He found that what he saw was the deceased, who was curled up, and as he was alive Holland obtained the assistance of the signalman. The guard of the luggage train gave Field some cold tea, and it was then found that he had sustained severe injuries. His right arm was completely cut off and was found some distance from him, whilst his right shoulder blade had been torn from its place. Under the wheels of an empty coach on the siding, close to the deceased, was found a portion of the deceased's shirt and some flesh. Mr. Booth, surgeon, Mirfield, was called to see the deceased (who could give no account as to how the accident happened), and under his advice he was removed to the Huddersfield Infirmary, where he died at 2 p.m., in the presence of his wife. At the Infirmary it was found that the deceased had, besides the injuries mentioned above, sustained fracture of several of the ribs on the right side, and death resulted from shock consequent upon the injuries. It is conjectured that the deceased must have been knocked down by a train at least 53 yards from where he was found, run over by the train as it was being shunted on the siding, and then have crawled to where he was found, for there were appearances of his having been dragged along the four-foot for the distance named. The jury found that "the deceased had met with his death accidentally, by being run over by a train."