

THE PIT ACCIDENT AT THORNHILL.

Mr. Maitland held an inquiry on Saturday at the Plough Inn, Mirfield, on the body of William Parkinson, pit-sinker, and employed by the Mirfield Coal Company, who was killed on the previous Wednesday whilst engaged at a new pit near the Ravensthorpe and Thornhill station. The evidence of Robert Vaughan, foreman pit-sinker, was that on the day in question he was at the bottom of the new shaft, when he gave the signal for a temporary pump, which hung by four chains from winces at the top of the shaft, to be lowered. Immediately afterwards there was an unusual noise in the shaft, and he soon discovered that an accident had occurred. He climbed to the top of the pump, and found the deceased jammed between the pump and the shaft with his head downwards. He knew that as it was being lowered the deceased was at the top of the pump. Parkinson was quite dead, and it took several hours to get the body to the surface. One of the chains had snapped, and the broken pieces fell into the sump at the bottom of the shaft. Mr. John Yevin, colliery manager and engineer, proved that the chains were tested by the Board of Trade before being used and were carefully examined by the engineman before they were put down the shaft, and that they were not bearing one-fifth of the weight for which they were tested. A verdict of "Accidental death" and without attaching blame to anybody, was returned.