

MIRFIELD CHARITIES.

Mr. W. A. Brigg, barrister, one of the Assistant-Commissioners, held an inquiry yesterday, in the Council Chamber, Mirfield, into the charities of the borough of Mirfield. The first charity inquired into was that of the Mirfield Grammar School, which was represented by Mr. T. E. Nevin, clerk of the Governors. He presented a copy of the scheme, which showed that the charity was founded in 1667 by Richard Thorpe, who left property for the benefit of teaching fifteen poor children at Mirfield. There had subsequently been other bequests, amounting in all to £3 5s. per annum, for the maintenance of the school. There were twelve trustees, six of whom were co-operative, five representative, and one appointed by the parents of the pupils. The result of a County Council inquiry in 1894 was that the representative Governors were ordered to be elected by the District Councils of Mirfield and Ravensthorpe; three by the former and two by the latter, in order to avoid the expenses of election every five years, which since 1873 had cost, on an average, £15 17s. 11d. Mr. Nevin said they desired the scheme to be altered as regarded Clause 24, which provided for the advertising of the accounts in the local newspapers at an annual cost of £3 10s. The Assistant-Commissioner stated that the total income was £313 6s. 7d., and the average income from scholars' fees during the last ten years was £123 8s. 10d.—The Beaumont charity was next considered. This was originally a rent-charge of £40, left in 1703, for apprenticing four boys in Kirkheaton, Lupton, South Crosland, and Mirfield. Under a scheme dated 1802, the income was to be applied in advancing the education of boys and girls at the public elementary schools. Other charities mentioned were those of Joseph Legard, who in 1679 left £2 to be paid to the Vicar for the benefit of the poor; Mrs. Mary Hutton (1720) £2 to the Churchwardens for the poor; Nathaniel Waterhouse, of Halifax (1786), £1 for the poor; and James Shepley (1719) £4 a year. In the case of the charity of Robert Hoidsworth (1786), a rent-charge now yielding £4 11s. 8d., it was stated that, according to the terms of the bequest, the Vicar was to receive 1s. 6d. for saying prayers at certain intervals, the clerk 1s. for being present, six poor men 2d. each, and six poor men a blue coat every year.—The charity of Lady Betty Hastings (1738) was stated to be, so far as Mirfield was concerned, £2 per annum for communion wine, and for those "who attend most frequently prayers on Wednesdays, Fridays, and holidays."—Another charity was that of Joseph Lee, which now yielded £9 3s. 4d., to be paid to the bell-ringers of the Mirfield Parish Church.—The charity of George Armitage, left in 1833, which does not take effect until his wife dies or re-marries, was stated to amount to two amounts of £300 each to the sexton for the keeping up of the walks in the churchyard, and to Moravian Chapel in Wellhouse. Other charities mentioned were those of Ravensthorpe Independent Chapel, Knowles Wesleyan Chapel, and the Independent Chapel at Ho ton.