

COMPULSORY VACCINATION.—PROSECUTIONS AT DEWSBURY.—Yesterday, at the West Riding petty sessions, Dewsbury, between thirty and forty persons, residents in Batley, Mirfield, Gomersal, Heckmondwike, Birstal, Thornhill, and Morley, were summoned, at the instance of the Board of Guardians for the Dewsbury Poor-law Union, for neglecting to have their children vaccinated within three months of the births of the said children. Mr. Wm. Carr, clerk to the board, prosecuted, and convictions followed in every instance, except two—in one case, a summons had been taken out in a wrong name; and in the other the child alleged not to have been vaccinated had been dead some time. In the great majority of cases fines of nominal amount only were imposed, but where defendants intimated that they had refused to obey the law, having no belief in the alleged efficacy of vaccination as a means of preventing the spread of small-pox, fines of 10s. each and costs were ordered to be paid. The persons so fined were Alfred Wildsmith, cloth dresser, and Thomas Taylor, woollen manufacturer, Batley; Henry Hopkinson, butcher, and W. J. J. Briscoe, grocer, Birstal. The last-named gentleman spoke very strongly against vaccination, as also did Mr. Taylor. The bench said they were not there to say whether vaccination was good or bad, but to administer the law. The proceedings excited considerable interest. The magistrates on the bench were Mr. Thomas F. Firth, Mr. Wm. Carr, and Mr. J. B. Greenwood.