

VIOLENT ASSAULT BY A VETERINARY SURGEON AT MIRFIELD.—At the West Riding Police-court, Dewsbury, yesterday, James Firth, veterinary surgeon, Mirfield, was charged with assaulting John Schofield, postmaster, of the same place, Hannah Schofield, the complainant's wife, and Emma Louisa Schofield his daughter: and there was a cross-summons in which Mrs. Schofield was charged with damaging Firth's overcoat.—Mr. Ibberson appeared for the Schofields; and Firth was represented by Mr. T. L. Chadwick.—It appeared from the evidence of the complainants that the defendant is a neighbour of theirs, and that they jointly occupy a washhouse under the same landlord. On the 25th of November the defendant went into the washhouse, in which were the complainant and his wife, and commenced abusing them. In order to get him away Schofield turned off the gas, and the defendant went out but as soon as Schofield got outside, the defendant struck him, and they both got down to the ground. Mrs. Schofield got hold of defendant's coat in order to protect her husband, upon which the defendant got up and struck her a violent blow in the face, making both her eyes black, and greatly disfiguring her face. He afterwards struck the daughter, but only slightly. For the defence it was alleged that Mr. Schofield seized him by the body, and as soon as he had released himself, Mrs. Schofield dragged him about five yards by the coat. He asked her several times to leave loose, but as she refused he struck her, but not violently. The damage to the coat he said was 7s. 6d. The Bench dismissed the charge against Mrs. Schofield, and fined Firth 20s. and costs, or one month, for the assault on Mr. Schofield, and 60s. and costs, or two months' imprisonment with hard labour, for the assault on Mrs. Schofield. Defendant paid the money, amounting to £5 9s. 6d.