

Correspondence between the Dewsbury Board of Guardians and the Local Government Board, in reference to the mode of carrying out the compulsory clauses of the Vaccination Acts.

Contributors

Dewsbury Board of Guardians.
Royal College of Surgeons of England

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Dewsbury Poor Law Union.

13.

CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN THE

DEWSBURY BOARD OF GUARDIANS

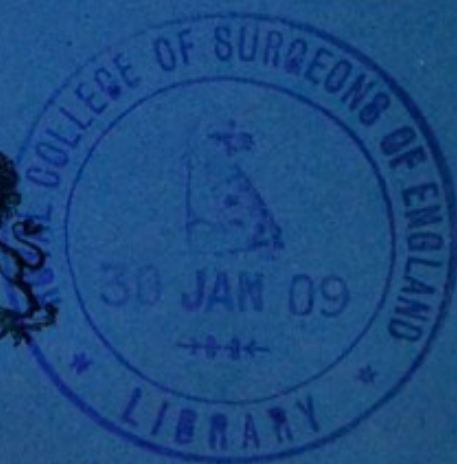
AND

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD,

IN REFERENCE TO THE MODE OF CARRYING OUT THE COMPULSORY
CLAUSES OF THE

VACCINATION ACTS.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE GUARDIANS.



OSSETT :

B. COCKBURN & SON, PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS,
OBSERVER OFFICE.

1879.



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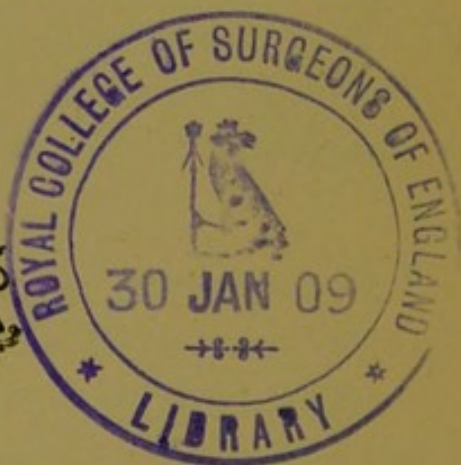
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P R E F A C E .

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THE object in publishing this correspondence is, 1st, to awaken the attention of members of Parliament and Boards of Guardians, Magistrates, and public Officials, to the anomalous and unsatisfactory state of the Laws of Compulsory Vaccination ; and, secondly, that the Electors of this Union may be fully apprised of the position of their representatives, whom they have from year to year elected to serve them and protect their interests and true liberties.

The various interpretations of the powers of Guardians under the Vaccination Acts, which year after year have been propounded as official and correct, have reached a stage, which, if legally sound, tramples upon the great principle of Taxation and Representation, and reduces the exercise of electing representatives as Guardians to a mere sham : and the manner adopted and pursued by a majority of the magistracy of this country, in dealing with conscientious defaulters under these Acts, discloses an advent of vindictiveness and a thirst for prosecution unparalleled in the history of our Criminal Courts during the present century.

On behalf of the poor especially, whom Guardians should protect and not oppress, and of those who have suffered the loss of their little ones, or contracted loathsome diseases from this unnatural operation, we especially appeal for help and consideration,—as members of this section are driven to the public Vaccination Stations, under coercion and dread of fine or imprisonment, while the higher orders of Society care little for their money, and the less scrupulous can purchase their immunity from publicity in the Law Courts in a wholesale fashion.

To those who value the freedom of our institutions and the true liberties of the people, we commend reflection upon the conclusion arrived at by the Local Government Board—whether rightly or wrongly, at this stage we give no opinion—upon the almost omnipotent power of paid officials, mis-called servants of the Guardians, and the impotency of the elected of the people, who form a corporate body called a Board of Guardians.

It is with regret the Board have felt it a duty to bear their testimony before the Local Government Board to what they believe to be wrong and unjust in the Law. It is due to the ratepayers whom we represent, and also to ourselves, who have so frequently been maligned and misrepresented, to publish this correspondence as a record against an arbitrary and tyrannical Law, born of superstition and ignorance, upheld by public money, unwillingly granted, to maintain a Medical Creed that reflects no honour on the enlightenment or intelligence of the nineteenth century.



CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence is published in accordance with a resolution passed by the Dewsbury Board of Guardians, at a meeting held June 27th, 1879, at the Board Room, Staincliffe:—

Local Government Board,
Whitehall, S.W.,
June 5th, 1873.

SIR,

I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ult., informing them of the death of Mr. John Kew, Vaccination Officer for the Dewsbury Union, and stating that the Guardians have resolved, for the present, not to appoint a successor to Mr. Kew.

I am directed to request that the Board may be furnished with a statement of the grounds upon which the Guardians propose to defer filling up the vacancy in the office of Vaccination Officer.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
H. FLEMING,
Secretary.

W Carr, Esq.,
Clerk to the Guardians, Gomersal.

Gomersal, near Leeds,
July 7th, 1873.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

In answer to Mr. Fleming's letter of the 5th of June, No. 34431, 1873 B, and Mr. Fletcher's letter of the 21st of June, No. 34431, 1873 B, I beg to inform you that I was directed by the Guardians of the Poor of this Union to forward you the enclosed statement of the Grounds upon which they

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object at present to appoint a Vaccination Officer for this Union.

I have the Honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHAS. P. PICKERSGILL,

Assistant Clerk.

The Local Government Board,
Whitehall, S.W.,

SIR,

In reply to yours of the 5th June, desiring the reasons why the Dewsbury Board of Guardians delay the appointment of a Vaccination Inspector, we beg to lay the following Facts before you, as a few out of the many reasons we have for taking our present course on this important and much vexed question of Compulsory Vaccination:—

- 1st.—That the advocates of Vaccination being interested, their evidence is comparatively worthless; for, if all evidence depended on interested witnesses, justice would be impossible, trials would be a farce, and society would collapse.
- 2.—That statistics prove indisputably the extreme futility of Vaccination, Small Pox having much increased since Vaccination has been general.
- 3.—That in 1866, in Sweden, 5398 persons, all of whom had been Vaccinated, died of Small Pox.
- 4.—That the mortality in Berlin from Small Pox has been $7\frac{1}{2}$ times greater than in partially vaccinated London.
- 5.—That Small Pox has been worse in Ireland than in England.
- 6.—That five re-Vaccinated Soldiers died this year of Small Pox at the Royal Barracks in Ireland.
- 7.—That Small Pox raged in the Sheffield Barracks, amongst the re-Vaccinated Soldiers, while the civil population outside were free.
- 8.—That the first Lieutenant and many of the Crew, all re-Vaccinated, on board Her Majesty's Ship *Octavia* died of Small Pox.
- 9.—That the mortality in our own Army from Small Pox, where all are re-Vaccinated, is nearly double that of the civil population, over five years of age.
- 10.—That the evidence given before the select committee of the House of Commons, on Sweden, Prussia, Ireland, &c., being free from Small Pox—recent and most fatal epidemics in these countries have *proved that evidence*

invalid as to the true value of Vaccination, and compulsion should therefore cease.

- 11.—That statistics are issued by Local Hospitals like the March returns from the Leeds Hospital in 1872, the correctness of which, when publicly challenged, the Leeds Guardians and Hospital Doctors alike refused to investigate; and through the one-sided and prejudiced course generally adopted by the Press on this question, the opponents of this filthy rite are not fairly represented, and the public are kept in comparative ignorance of the true merits of Vaccination.
- 12.—That we notice, with regret, in our own district Small Pox has increased with Vaccination.
- 13.—That many children have *died in our district* of most loathsome diseases, directly implanted by Vaccination, is too painfully true; and that much disease, some of a *life-long type*, has been caused under our own observation, direct from Vaccination.
- 14.—That a parent who objects to have his younger children vaccinated, because the elder ones have been killed by the operation, should not be forced by penalties to consent, *or be treated as a felon*.
- 15.—That we wish the law to be respected—not as it is in our sister country, where they cannot get a jury to convict;—and no sensible man can respect a bad law; and that must be a bad law, the carrying out of which causes death, increases disease, and entails much misery in families; and the Government which passes such Compulsory Laws must lose a majority of its best supporters.
- 16.—That the generality of Vaccination Inspectors seem specially to have made it their business to persecute, from time to time, parents who conscientiously object to this medical rite, and have at the expense of the rate-payers been little better than touts and spies for the public vaccinators.
- 17.—That the reports given by these Inspectors to the Guardians are comparatively valueless, and, further, the Guardians have no check or guarantee how far such reports are correct.
- 18.—That Inspectors have become public nuisances, carrying necessarily the germs of Small Pox from house to house by visitation, besides enacting such scenes in our Courts of Justice as degrade the dignity of English law and Englishmen's liberty.
- 19.—That Sanitary Committees or Local Boards seem to us

the proper parties to deal with, or prevent as far as possible, epidemics which may locally occur.

20.—That the representatives from the various Townships on this Board will carefully watch any outbreak of Small Pox that may arise, and should this Board see fit to appoint an Inspector, or any necessity for one, they will not shrink from any public duty on the ground of expense.

21.—That the majority of this Board would teach the all importance of Cleanliness, correct Diet, Temperance and Purity, rather than polluting the pure blood of children with virus from the diseased heel of a horse, or any other diseased brute or creature, and are supported in this view by an army of the most advanced and intelligent medical men of the day.

On behalf of the Committee appointed by the Dewsbury Board of Guardians,

WM. FRED FOX, Chairman.

Dewsbury, July 1st, 1873.

Local Government Board,
Whitehall, S.W.,

21st August, 1873.

SIR,

I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th ultimo, transmitting a statement of the grounds upon which the Guardians of the Dewsbury Union object at present to appoint a Vaccination Officer for the Union. The Board, having considered the representations contained in the statement referred to, direct me to point out that, although under the provisions of the Vaccination Act, 1867, it was optional with Boards of Guardians to appoint Vaccination Officers yet, under section 5 of the Vaccination Act, 1871 (34 and 35 Vict., cap. 98), it is obligatory upon them to appoint and pay one or more such officers.

The Board cannot undertake to enter into any controversy with the Guardians as to the policy of this last-mentioned provision. They think it right, however, to state that the Act was passed after a full enquiry had been instituted by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, under the operation of the Vaccination Act, 1867, and to direct the attention of the Guardians to the following conclusions arrived at by such Committee, and set forth in their report as to the value of Vaccin-

ation, the safety of the practice, and the duty of enforcing it, viz. :—

“ That the Cow-pox affords, if not an absolute, yet a very great protection against an attack of Small-pox, and an almost absolute protection against death from that disease.

“ That if the operation be performed with due regard to the health of the person vaccinated, and with proper precautions in obtaining and using the Vaccine lymph, there need be no apprehension that Vaccination will injure health or communicate any disease.”

“ That Small-pox, unchecked by Vaccination, is one of the most terrible and destructive of diseases, as regards the danger of infection, the proportion of deaths among those attacked, and the permanent injury to the survivors, and therefore,

“ That it is the duty of the State to endeavour to secure the careful Vaccination of the whole population.”

“ Against (the) evidence in favour of vaccination the prevalence of the present Small-pox epidemic, especially in the Metropolis, has been alleged.”

“ Your Committee, however, believe that, on the one hand, if Vaccination had not been general, this epidemic might have become a pestilence as destructive as small-pox has often been, where the population has been unprotected; and that on the other hand, if this preventive had been universal, the epidemic could not have approached its present extent.”

The Legislature, having determined that the law relating to compulsory vaccination should be maintained and strengthened, it devolves upon Boards of Guardians to carry that law into effect, and, with this view, to appoint one or more officers to prosecute persons charged with offences against the Act, or otherwise to enforce its provisions.

Under these circumstances, the Board must request the Guardians to give the subject their careful re-consideration, with a view to an immediate compliance with the provisions of the Statute, in regard to the appointment of one or more Vaccination Officers for the Union.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

FRAS. FLETCHER,

Assistant Secretary.

W. Carr, Esq.,

Clerk to the Guardians, Gomersal.

10TH OCTOBER, 1873.

The Guardians having taken into consideration the foregoing letter, it was resolved by 11 votes to 5, that in answer to the Local Government Board's letter of the 21st of August last, the Clerk forward the reasons produced by Mr. Fox to that Board; an amendment, that the Board advertise for a Vaccination Officer, having been put to the vote and negatived.

SIR,

In reply to yours of the 21st August, it gives us great pleasure and satisfaction to again have the opportunity of placing before you the reasons upon which our judgment is based, which we think fully justify us in the course we have adopted; and as we are desirous of arriving at the truth—open as we are to conviction, if in error—we believe much good will result from a friendly interchange of thought upon this vexed question of Compulsory Vaccination.

We are glad you have considered the statements made in our manifesto of July last—and no doubt you have found them on examination too painfully true; and we would again direct your attention to the fact, that the evidence given before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, on Sweden, Prussia, and Ireland being free from Small Pox—the fact of being universally Vaccinated at that time *biassed that Committee to the conclusion it arrived at.* Were that Committee to sit to-day, and hear the assertions made two years ago completely confuted by the *Fact* that these Countries have recently suffered an Epidemic of Small Pox unparalleled for virulence and mortality in the present century, you could not be surprised to find enquiring and judging minds arrive at the conclusions we have arrived at, and to exercise the discretion vested in us on this question—for the 20s. Fine and Costs is a trivial annoyance to the rich, while to the poorer classes, whom these Inspectors delight to tyrannize over and prey upon, it is oppressive and unjust; and, without charitable pecuniary assistance is at hand, the poor must succumb, and submit their tender offspring to a disgusting and disease-dealing operation, which in their consciences they regard as a crime against nature, and a sin against God. The cry for re-Vaccination is a signal proof of the failure of Vaccination; and to repeat a practice which is not justified by principle is simply to repeat a crime. When it can be shown that two nothings can produce a something, then people may be found verdant enough to accept such very disinterested advice.

You state “your Board believe, had not Vaccination been

general, the recent Epidemic might have become a Pestilence as destructive as Small Pox has often been where the population has been unprotected—and, on the other hand, if this preventive had been universal the Epidemic could not have approached its present extent.” We would here draw your especial attention to *Facts* apparently overlooked by you, which remove every ground for such belief, and which clearly prove that the present practice predisposes and keeps alive in the human family the germ of Small Pox.

Until quite recently, it used to be a stock argument to appeal to the evidence from Scotland and Ireland—the successful carrying out of the Act in these Countries having been the means (it was alleged) of stamping out Small Pox. Dr. Playfair said in the House of Commons, on the 6th July, 1870, “There could not be the slightest doubt that Compulsory Laws, when properly applied, as in Scotland and Ireland, were perfectly equal to stamp out Small Pox in a Country.” The Registrar General for Scotland informs us that 97.7 of the Births have been Vaccinated, the Compulsory Act having been in operation eight years; yet during 1871 they had a frightful Epidemic in Dundee. In this instance we have the astounding fact, that out of every 100 Deaths from Small Pox more than 37 were Children under Five years of age; yet here we have an Epidemic in which the mortality was 8.8 per cent. of the total Deaths, and of these 37 out of every 100 were Children under Five years of age.

Sir Dominic Corrigan said in the House of Commons two or three years ago, that Vaccination had stamped out Small Pox in Ireland; yet since then there have been frightful Epidemics in Dublin, Belfast, and Cork. The mortality from Small Pox in Dublin was 7.6 per thousand of the population; whilst the mortality in London, during the Epidemic year 1871, was only 2.4 per thousand: and in Cork, in the quarter ending June, 1872, the rate actually reached 23.2 per thousand:—in other words, in one of the principal Towns in well Vaccinated Ireland the mortality from Small Pox, for the first quarter of 1872, has been ten times greater than in London, during the worst Epidemic we have had for seventy years.

Sweden has been another favourite resort of the Vaccinators. In 1842 there were only two Deaths from Small Pox in that Country: but, lo! in the next four or five years the figures rose steadily to an Annual Death-rate of between 2,000 and 3,000 in well-Vaccinated Sweden.

The evidence from France is even more remarkable. From the returns of the French Government, presented through the

Minister of Commerce and Agriculture, and prepared by the Imperial Academy of Medicine, we find the following startling announcement: "For every 88 cases of Small Pox which occurred in the ten departments *least* Vaccinated, there occurred 427 cases in the ten departments *most* Vaccinated; and for every one Death in the ten departments *least* Vaccinated, there were 49 in the *most* Vaccinated." That was in 1867.

In 1868, Dr. Ducharme, 1st class Aide-Major of the 1st Regiment of Voltigeurs of the Guard, reports: "The 1st and 2nd Regiments were lodged in exactly similar barracks, situate in the same court, and under similar conditions, except that the one had been re-Vaccinated and the other not. Small Pox broke out, *not among the latter* as it ought to have done under the hypothesis of Vaccination, but amongst the former, 'the protected,' and became Epidemic and Confluent, carrying off many victims, amongst others, one of the Infirmary Assistants." Dr. Ducharme enquires, "To what should we attribute this Epidemic, in a Regiment in which 437 re-Vaccinations had been performed, when the hygienic conditions as space, ventilation and food were excellent; when in the 2nd Regiment of Voltigeurs, lodged in precisely similar barracks, situated in the same court, but on whom no Vaccination had yet been made, not a single case of Small Pox existed?"

We would direct your attention to the 33rd Report of George Muller, for 1872, of Small Pox in the Bristol Orphan Homes, where he says every child has been Vaccinated, there being 293 cases of Small Pox and 18 Deaths; and compare it with the Report by Isaac Massey, Apothecary to "Christ's Hospital" in 1723, when all were necessarily un-Vaccinated. He writes: "The children of Christ's Hospital are generally a flux body of about 900 or more, and I affirm that in that place *not one out of fifty* has died these last twenty years of that distemper, and but *one the last nine years* of Small Pox, although near 600 have been constantly in the house, and I believe some hundreds have been down of it." Dr. Wagstaffe, writing at the same period, states respecting Small Pox in children, that the fatality amounted to "hardly one in a hundred cases." The eminent Dr. Bayard gives it as his opinion, that "*Vaccination has doubled the mortality among young persons.*" Dr. Engel, Director of the Statistical Bureau in Berlin, shows that the length of human life in Prussia has gradually but constantly sunk during 40 years; and this in the face of advanced hygienic treatment, and improved sanitary arrangement. Such a *fact* bearing upon the *best Vaccinated Country in Europe* carries along with it a sinister and almost irresistible conclusion.

Dr. Collins observed, that at the Camp at Shorncliffe when the Small Pox broke out many of the re-Vaccinated soldiers died, or at least had arms amputated, in consequence of Vaccination. The same observation made by Louis Napoleon at Chalons, prompted him to forbid re-Vaccination; and after the same process upon the Federal prisoners in Camp Sumpter, Georgia, in 1864, no less than 10,000 died. Facts like these we could greatly multiply, and founded as they are on incontestible evidence, they appear to us unanswerable, and are sufficient, if we went no further, to undermine, may we not say to destroy, the faith of every independent thinker in this monstrous fiction.

And here we would call your especial attention, with a view for a full and correct enquiry, as to the present source and supply of what is called Lymph, and to whom those injured and diseased by the operation are to look for redress. Section 32, cap. 84, provides, Any person who shall produce or attempt to produce in any person, by Inoculation with variolous matter, or any matter, article, or thing impregnated with variolous matter, or wilfully by any other means produce the disease of Small Pox in any person, shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable to be proceeded against summarily, and upon conviction to be imprisoned for any time not exceeding one month. *That the matter at present in use is variolous few will deny.* Erysipelas and other febrile symptoms are common, and attendant upon the operation; and we know cases where Small Pox has followed within a few days of Vaccination, and Death was the result. It has come to our ears that some practitioners are using Glycerine instead of this *extract of disease* called Lymph, which shows a decided objection to the present system of indiscriminate arm to arm Inoculation—for Vaccination it is not, the cow having long since refused to have the Small Pox. According to the best authorities, Lymph from an ulcer is tissue that has undergone retrograde metamorphosis, or become partially decomposed. The time has arrived when Compulsory Laws must be founded on principle, truth, and justice, not on ifs, beliefs, and suppositions; for *justice* is the one thing that keeps society together, and renders civilization possible. Since the Vaccination Inspector died, Small Pox cases have gradually diminished, so that we have had but few cases in the Hospital, and we know of very few in the Union. An Inspector going from house to house, in the same clothing, without being disinfected, after coming in contact with Small Pox patients would spread disease like a firebrand. Holding the views expressed above, we do hereby most respectfully beg to be re-

lieved from the appointment of a Vaccination Inspector.

In conclusion, we have calmly and seriously considered this subject, and were we to pursue any other course than the one we have adopted, we should be guilty of a public injustice, and disgrace our dignity and manhood by enforcing a practice that our common intelligence, our reason, and daily observation have convinced us is a *delusion* and a *sham*, fraught with the worst consequences to humanity.

ON BEHALF OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE DEWSBURY UNION.
OCTOBER 10TH, 1873.

7TH NOVEMBER, 1873.

Another letter was read from the Local Government Board dated 30th ultimo, acknowledging the receipt of a further statement relating to the Grounds upon which the Guardians of the Dewsbury Union object to appoint a Vaccination Officer, and also stating that the Guardians cannot be relieved from the discharge of the duty, which the Legislature has so emphatically imposed upon them, of appointing an officer or officers to enforce the provisions of the Vaccination Acts, and the Local Government Board request that the Guardians will proceed to make the necessary appointment without further delay. Should the Guardians fail to do so it will become the duty of the Board to consider what steps it may be necessary to take to ensure a compliance with the law.

21ST NOVEMBER, 1873.

The letter from the Local Government Board of the 30th October last requesting this Board to appoint a Vaccination Officer or Officers for the Union, having been again read, it was resolved that the same lay upon the table, and there being no amendment proposed the same was adopted, and the Clerk was specially directed not to convey this decision to the Local Government Board.

30TH JANUARY, 1874.

Another letter was read from the Local Government Board dated 26th January inst., stating that unless the Board immediately received from the Guardians an assurance that they would forthwith proceed to appoint a Vaccination Officer application will be made to the Court of Queen's Bench for a

mandamus to compel the Guardians to appoint such an officer.

A resolution was thereupon moved and seconded that this Board proceed to appoint a Vaccination Officer, but the following amendment was ultimately carried by 12 votes to 3, viz., that this Board having for some time refused on conscientious grounds to prosecute parents for the non-vaccination of their children, and believing that the office of Vaccination Inspector is objectionable and useless, and as the present Board will only have 5 more sittings, they trust the Local Government Board will allow the appointment of such Officer to stand over until the voice of the ratepayers has been consulted, and a new Board of Guardians elected.

8TH MAY, 1874.

A further letter was read from the Local Government Board dated the 6th instant, asking to be informed without delay whether the Guardians had arrived at any decision as to the appointment of a Vaccination Officer, and the Chairman, Mr. C. Kilner, subsequently gave notice that at the next meeting he would move that the Board proceed to the appointment of a Vaccination Officer, and the Clerk was directed to reply to the before mentioned letter, and inform the Local Government Board what had been done.

22ND MAY, 1874.

The Chairman, Mr. Caleb Kilner, having moved in pursuance of his notice that in compliance with the requirements of the Vaccination Amendment Act 1871, section 5, this Board do now proceed to the appointment of a Vaccination Officer for this Union, and this having been duly seconded, an amendment was moved that this Board do not appoint such officer, but the amendment was lost on a division by 8 votes to 5, four of the guardians having abstained from voting, and the original motion was then put to the vote and declared to be carried, the result of the voting being the same as on the amendment. It was also resolved to advertise for candidates at a salary of £50 per annum.

5TH JUNE, 1874.

Mr. John Thomas Marriott, of Healey, Batley, Agent, one of the Guardians for Batley, and Mr. Christopher Pickard, the porter of the Union Workhouse, were candidates for the office of Vaccination Officer for the Union, and Mr. Marriott was duly appointed to the office, there being 14 votes for him and 3 for Mr. Pickard.

Inasmuch as Mr. Marriott had expressed himself when a Guardian as strongly opposed to the principles of the Vaccination Acts, and had also taken part in public meetings convened by the anti-vaccination party, and as the Local Government Board were made acquainted with these facts, that Board were of opinion that Mr. Marriott's appointment was not calculated to ensure the provisions of those Acts being efficiently carried out. The Board therefore sent down two of their Inspectors to confer with the Guardians and Mr. Marriott on the subject, and they recommended the Guardians to remunerate Mr. Marriott by a fee per case in lieu of a fixed salary, which the Guardians agreed to, and ultimately Mr. Marriott's appointment was confirmed. Up to 1875 Mr. Marriott regularly reported to the Guardians the steps taken by him, and also asked for general instructions to be given him to enable him to take proceedings against defaulters, and this question came before the Guardians for their consideration on the 15th January, 1875, when the following resolution was passed, viz., *that no prosecution be instituted by the Vaccination Officer against persons in default without first obtaining the sanction of this Board; and that in all cases in which he finds it necessary to commence proceedings he lay such cases before the Board and receive their directions.* An amendment, that the Guardians give discretionary power to the Vaccination Officer to commence proceedings in all cases in which he finds it necessary against persons in default for the year 1872, having been negatived by 9 votes to 5.

7TH MAY, 1875.

Dr. Stevens, Vaccination Inspector, attended a Meeting of the Guardians on this date, and having stated to the Guardians the present state of vaccination in this Union, and also the result of his examination of Mr. Marriott's Books and the per-

formance of his duties since his appointment, the Inspector suggested to the Guardians the advisability of giving Mr. Marriott general directions for instituting proceedings against persons in default on his own authority, and also of granting him a Temporary Assistant, and to appoint a Vaccination Committee, but no action was taken in the matter.

21ST MAY, 1875.

The question of giving Mr. Marriott general instructions to commence proceedings was again introduced at the meeting of the Guardians held this day, when the resolution passed on the 15th January, 1875, was again confirmed.

4TH JUNE, 1875.

Mr. Marriott having attended the meeting of the Guardians this day, and asked for general directions to institute proceedings against defaulters, a proposition was made that discretionary power be given to the Vaccination Officer to summon all persons who have not obeyed the Vaccination Acts. On a division the motion was rejected by 9 votes to 8.

Notice was given to introduce the question again at the following meeting.

18TH JUNE, 1875.

Mr. Kilner moved in pursuance of notice that the previous resolutions, requiring the Vaccination Officer to report the cases of defaulters under the Vaccination Acts to the Guardians before instituting proceedings, be rescinded, but on a division the motion was negatived by 11 votes to 10.

30TH JULY, 1875.

Mr. Marriott having reported that Jonathan Brown, Benjamin Pearson, Joseph Lister and Mark Lister were in default under the Vaccination Acts, and refused to cause their children to be vaccinated, and asked for the instructions of the Guardians thereon, the Guardians resolved by 10 votes to 9, that the parents of the children referred to should be summoned before the magistrates for non-compliance with the Vaccination Acts.

24TH SEPTEMBER, 1875.

Mr. Marriott attended the meeting and presented a report containing a list of persons in default, when it was proposed that the Vaccination Officer be authorised and directed to take proceedings against the defaulters reported by him, and that they be summoned before the magistrates, but an amendment that no prosecution be instituted was carried by 8 votes to 7.

19TH NOVEMBER, 1875.

Two letters from Dr. Beard, Vaccination Inspector, dated the 6th and 11th instant, were read, requesting to be furnished with particulars as to any application made to the Guardians by the Vaccination Officer, for instructions to take proceedings against defaulters under the Vaccination Acts, and the result of such application, and whether any special proceedings had been taken with respect to vaccination on account of Small Pox, and as to any complaints against the conduct of public Vaccination since 1873.

It was ordered that the names of the Guardians voting on the question of giving general instructions to the Vaccination Officer, to institute proceedings against defaulters, and recorded on the minutes of the 21st May and 18th June last, be furnished to Dr. Beard, in addition to the information already supplied by the Clerk in his two letters of the 10th and 12th instant, and now read.

3RD DECEMBER, 1875.

* Notice having been given at the last meeting, it was moved that the resolutions passed on the 15th January and 21st May last, respectively requiring the Vaccination Officer to lay the names of all defaulters under the Vaccination Acts before the Guardians, before instituting proceedings, and to receive their directions, be rescinded, and the motion having been duly seconded and put to the vote was declared carried by 20 votes to 13. This majority was obtained by the *ex-officios* coming in a body to out-vote the elected Guardians.

It was also resolved that the Vaccination Officer be and he is hereby authorised and directed to institute and conduct such

* This is the work of a special organisation of the *ex-officios*.

legal proceedings as may be requisite and expedient against all persons in default, under the provisions of the Vaccination Acts for enforcing Vaccination.

It was further resolved that it be an instruction to the Vaccination Officer to institute proceedings, where necessary, against defaulters resident in the borough of Batley before the Batley borough Magistrates, those resident in Dewsbury before the Dewsbury borough bench, and those from other parts of the Union before the Magistrates for the Dewsbury Division of the West Riding.

14TH JULY, 1876.

It was moved in pursuance of notice given at the previous meeting that the resolution passed by this Board on the third day of December, 1875, "that the Vaccination Officer of this Union be and he is hereby authorised and directed to institute and conduct such legal proceedings as may be requisite and expedient against all persons in default under the provisions of the Vaccination Acts for enforcing Vaccination" be rescinded. This resolution was carried by 11 votes to 3.

It was also resolved that the Vaccination Officer in future do report each case of default to the Board before instituting legal proceedings, and receive the special directions of the Guardians thereon, he having first taken the preliminary steps as to Notices and inquiries and other matters which he is required to do under the regulations and instructions of the Local Government Board against persons in default.

These are the resolutions the Local Government Board say are *illegal*.

N.B.—The steps required to be taken by the Vaccination Officer, in cases where parents are in default, are more particularly set forth in the Order of the Local Government Board of the 31st of October, 1874, of which the following is an extract:—

"6. The steps that the vaccination officer will be required to take in discharge of his duty to see that all children entered on the birth lists are duly vaccinated, will vary, according as the vaccination district in which the parent resides is one in which continuous weekly public vaccination is maintained, or one in which the public performance of vaccination is only periodical."

“(i.) As regards districts in which there is continuous weekly public vaccination :—

“(a.) He shall keep his birth lists examined from week to week, and in each case of default which may arise shall, immediately on such default arising, intimate the fact to the parent. For this purpose a notice in the annexed form A., or to the like effect, may be used ; and such notice may, if he think fit, be sent by post. He should make a mark in the margin of his vaccination register in each case in which this intimation of default has been given. If the intimation be not attended to within a reasonable time, say fifteen days, or if in the case of a notice sent by post the person to whom it was addressed has not been found by the post office, the vaccination officer shall at once proceed to make personal inquiries with a view to obtaining the requisite certificate or taking the necessary proceedings.

“(b.) If on these personal inquiries the parent be found in default, an exact date should be specified by which he must have complied with the law ; and a notice in the annexed form B., or to the like effect, should be given.

“(c.) Failing compliance, the vaccination officer shall proceed according to the directions given him under Article 16 of this order.

“The Guardians shall, in all cases in which the provisions of the Vaccination Acts for enforcing vaccination have been neglected, cause proceedings to be taken against the persons in default, and for this purpose shall give directions authorising the Vaccination Officer to institute and conduct such proceedings ; but no such directions shall authorise the vaccination officer to take further proceedings under section 31 of the Vaccination Act of 1867 in any case in which an order has already been obtained and summary proceedings taken under that section, until he shall have brought the circumstances of the case under the notice of the guardians and received their special directions thereon.”

FORM A.

VACCINATION ACTS, 1867 AND 1871.

To _____

I hereby remind you that I have not received the certificate now due respecting the vaccination of your child, ,

and I beg that you will take the steps necessary to have such certificate forwarded to me without delay.

(Signed)

Vaccination Officer for

Dated _____

Address of Vaccination Officer _____

* * The public vaccinator for your district attends at his station at _____ for the gratuitous performance of vaccination every _____ at _____ o'clock. If the child be vaccinated there, the public vaccinator is responsible for the transmission of the certificate to me, otherwise it devolves upon yourself to send me the certificate.

FORM B.

VACCINATION ACTS, 1867 AND 1871.

To _____

Whereas you are in default under the above acts, respecting your child, _____, I hereby require you [to have the said child vaccinated within fourteen days from the date hereof, and do all other things the law requires touching the said vaccination*], or [to transmit to me within seven days from the date hereof the requisite certificate concerning the vaccination of the said child*], failing which it will be my duty to take the proper steps for securing the enforcement of the law.

(Signed)

Vaccination Officer for

Dated _____

Address of Vaccination Officer _____

* * The public vaccinator for your district attends at his station at _____ for the gratuitous performance of vaccination every _____ at _____ o'clock. If the child be vaccinated there, the public vaccinator is responsible for the transmission of the certificate to me, otherwise it devolves upon yourself to send me the certificate.

28TH JULY, 1876.

Mr. Marriott attended before the Board and reported several persons who were in default for not having caused their children to be vaccinated, and asked for the instructions of the Guardians in a number of cases, when it was resolved that the consideration of the report of the Vaccination Officer stand over till next Board day.

25TH AUGUST, 1876.

Mr. Marriott attended the meeting and laid before the Board the names of 21 persons residing at Mirfield, and stated that they were in default, and had not complied with the usual notices to have their children vaccinated, and he asked for the instructions of the Board with reference to instituting proceedings against them. It was proposed that the Vaccination Officer be instructed to institute legal proceedings against the persons referred to, but an amendment was carried that the further consideration of the list of defaulters produced be adjourned to the next meeting.

8TH SEPTEMBER, 1876.

The attention of the Guardians being called to the 21 persons from Mirfield, who were reported at the last meeting as being in default for not having their children vaccinated, and to the fact that Mr. Marriott had since taken legal proceedings against most of them, it was resolved by 12 votes to 2 that this Board considers the action taken by Mr. J. T. Marriott, the Vaccination Officer, in summoning persons before the magistrates without the sanction and authority of this Board and in open defiance of the Board's instructions, an act of unwarrantable insubordination. This board therefore suspends the said officer until they have received an explanation from the Local Government Board defining his powers, and an assurance that the officer is acting legally in openly defying the instructions of the said Board. (The Board were advised that they had no power to suspend.)

3RD NOVEMBER, 1876.

The following letter was read :—

Local Government Board,
Whitehall, S. W.
2nd November, 1876.

Sir,

I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th September, enclosing a copy of a resolution of the Guardians of the Dewsbury Union, suspending their Vaccination Officer from his office.

The Board have had this resolution under their consideration, and they now instruct me to express their opinion that the act of the Guardians in suspending the Vaccination Officer was altogether null. I am to point out that the Order under which he was appointed contained no power of suspension. He holds his office according to Article 5, until he dies, resigns, or is removed by the Local Government Board. Hence he is fully in office, and is bound to discharge the duties of that office, no resolution of the Guardians having any authority to remove him.

I am to add that it appears that the Guardians have suspended him because he proceeded to institute prosecutions for breaches of the law on the part of the parents who have not had their children vaccinated. This is not ground upon which this Board can remove him from his office, and they will immediately require him to resume his duties as Vaccination Officer.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

HUGH OWEN, Junior,
Assistant Secretary.

Joseph Peace, Esq.,
Clerk to the Guardians.

It was resolved that the Clerk be directed to acknowledge the receipt of the letter, and send the following reply :—

November 7th, 1876.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Owen's letter of the 2nd instant, No. 57436 K. 1876, with reference to the resolution of the Dewsbury Board of Guardians suspending their Vaccination Officer from his office, and also to acquaint you that I duly laid the letter before the Guardians at their meeting on the 3rd instant, when they passed a further resolu-

tion on the subject, a copy of which I have hereto annexed.

I have the Honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOSEPH PEACE.

The Local Government Board,
Whitehall.

(Copy.)

It was resolved that the Clerk be directed to acknowledge the receipt of the letter from the Local Government Board, and point out that although the resolution of the Guardians was strictly speaking illegal, it was passed not because the Vaccination Officer had taken proceedings against persons who had refused to have their children vaccinated as stated in the letter, but in order to mark the strong sense of their opinion of his conduct for having taken those proceedings without their authority, and before they had investigated the cases in question, and also for acting in open defiance of their instructions which they submit were specially and lawfully given to him, and particularly to ask whether the Board is of opinion that the action taken by their officer in openly setting their instructions at defiance is legal and justifiable?

Local Government Board,

Whitehall, S.W.,

5th January, 1877.

SIR,

I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your Letters of the 7th of November and the 2nd instant, in the former of which was enclosed a copy of a resolution passed on the 3rd of November by the Guardians of the Dewsbury Union in reference to the action taken by the Vaccination Officer of the Union with regard to persons in default under the Vaccination Acts.

The Board have had this resolution under their consideration; and I am now directed to state that they are advised that, having regard to the proceedings and judgment of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, in the case of the Guardians of the Keighley Union, the resolution passed by the Guardians on the 14th of July last, rescinding the resolution passed on the 3rd of December, 1875, in conformity with the General Order of this Board of the 31st of October, 1874, was null; and that the resolution following, whereby the Guardians

attempted to prevent the Vaccination Officer from doing his duty, was also one not to be obeyed.

I am further to point out that the Vaccination Acts confer upon the Vaccination Officer the express power of taking proceedings irrespective of the Board's Order, and without the necessity of any direction from the Guardians; and the Board are therefore clearly of opinion that Mr. Marriott is not liable to removal from office, or to censure for having taken the steps which he took in enforcing the provisions of the law.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

HUGH OWEN, JUNR.,

Assistant Secretary.

26th May, 1877.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Board of Guardians of this Union to annex hereto a copy of a resolution which was passed by them at a meeting, held on the 3rd December, 1875, requiring the Vaccination Officer to institute proceedings against defaulters under the Vaccination Acts, before the justices having jurisdiction in the place where they reside. It was stated to the Guardians, at their meeting on the 18th instant, that Mr. Marriott had recently summoned several persons residing in the Borough of Dewsbury, for offences under the Vaccination Acts, before the Batley Borough Justices, contrary to the instructions contained in the resolution above referred to, and that penalties were inflicted in some of the cases, and I was requested to ask for the opinion of your Honourable Board as to whether it was competent for the Guardians to pass such resolution, and whether the action taken by Mr. Marriott is legal and justifiable.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH PEACE.

To the Local Government Board.

23rd October, 1877.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Board of Guardians of this Union to inform you that, in cases where the Vaccination Officer has found it necessary to institute and conduct proceedings against

persons in default under the Vaccination Acts, it is the practice for the justices at Dewsbury to allow a fee of 1s. per case to the Vaccination Officer where a conviction is obtained, for his personal expenses in conducting the proceedings; and the Borough Justices at Batley usually grant him a fee of 2s. 6d. in each case, such fees being paid by the defendants and included in the costs to be paid by them. The attention of the Guardians having been called to the terms of article 18 of the order issued by your Honourable Board, dated the 31st Oct., 1874, they have instructed me to ask whether it is not the duty of the Vaccination Officer to account for these sums received by him, and to pay the same to their Treasurer under the latter part of that Article; and I shall therefore be glad to receive the reply of your honourable Board on this subject.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH PEACE.

To the Local Government Board,
Whitehall.

Local Government Board,
Whitehall, S.W.,
27th December, 1877.

Sir,

I am directed by the Local Government Board to advert to your letters of the 23rd of October last and 17th ultimo, with reference to the appropriation of certain costs allowed by the Justices to Mr. Marriott, Vaccination Officer, on the prosecution of persons for neglect to comply with the Provisions of the Vaccination Acts.

I am directed to forward for the information of the Guardians of the Dewsbury Union the accompanying copy of a communication which the Board have since received from Mr. Marriott upon the subject, and to state that the Board do not consider that the payments in question are such as come within the terms of their General Order of the 31st of October, 1874.

It appears that Mr. Marriott is paid a sum of money for his attendance before the Justices as a Witness. This payment is in the shape of a compensation to him for his personal loss of time, and he does not recover it or receive it from the defendants in point of fact, nor in any way as part of the costs and expenses which he incurs in the prosecution.

In a case where *no conviction* takes place, the Board *presume* that no such payment is made to Mr. Marriott, and that he *makes no charge* for his attendance.

If there be many cases to be heard on the same day, the Justices might, perhaps, think it right to grant Mr. Marriott a smaller allowance, but this arrangement would be for the *benefit of the defendants* only, and must of course depend upon the practice of the Petty Sessions in cases where batches of similar complaints are heard on the same day.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

DANBY P. FRY,

Assistant Secretary.

To Joseph Peace, Esq.,

Clerk to the Guardians of the Dewsbury Union,
Dewsbury.

(Copy.)

Batley, Yorkshire,

November 27th, 1877.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

In reply to your communication of the 15th November instant, enclosing copy of a letter received by your Honourable Board from the Clerk to the Dewsbury Guardians, and referring to proceedings instituted by me against defaulters under the Vaccination Acts, and charging me with having appropriated to my own use certain fees which ought to have been paid to the funds of the Union.

I beg most respectfully to say that the enclosed has been furnished me by the Clerk to the Justices, and are all the charges made by him in all cases.

I beg to inform your Honourable Board that I have never at any time seen a list of such charges before the enclosed.

My practice has always been and still is, to give to the Clerk a list of defaulters, and when the informations are ready I have to appear before the Justices to prove the informations are true.

When the cases are heard before the Magistrates, and conviction follows or an order is made, the Clerk makes out the list of costs (as enclosed), receives the whole sum, and pays the several amounts under the various heads as per enclosed, allowing me one shilling for each conviction for travelling and other expenses. The Clerk to the Justices issues all and every summons at his own cost, and recovers his fees and other charges either on the day of hearing or by distress.

I take no part either in paying or receiving.

The whole of the penalty which the Justices may decree the defaulter to pay, is under Jarvis's Act handed over by the Clerk, to the Boro' or County Fund as the case may be. The distance I travel is 12 miles—4 miles on 3 separate days.

I have explained fully to W. J. Sendall, Esq., the Inspector for this district, the whole matter.

The whole of this case has been laid before the Chairman, the Vice-chairman, and several of the Guardians ; and they are of opinion that I do not receive any money to which the Guardians have the least claim under Article 18, and the money granted me by the Justices forms no part of the fees alluded to in such article.

This, my Lords and Gentlemen, is the full and truthful account of the whole matter.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. T. MARRIOTT,

Vaccination Officer.

The Local Government Board,
Whitehall.

11th January, 1878.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Guardians of this Union to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Fry's letter of the 27th ultimo and its enclosure with reference to the costs allowed to Mr. Marriott by the Justices, and to forward the following reply thereto.

The Guardians have considered Mr. Marriott's communication to your Honourable Board, and they could have wished that a copy of it had been forwarded to them for their observations before your Board had given an opinion on the subject, as the facts of the case have not been fully stated.

Mr. Marriott has, without the consent of the Guardians and contrary to their directions, summoned before the Magistrates batches of defaulters of upwards of 80 at a time without making personal enquiries into the cases as he is required to do by the order of the 31st October, 1874. Serving notices by post, and then taking proceedings against the parties without making personal enquiries, creating much dissatisfaction and opposition to the Vaccination Acts, and also unnecessary expense ; and as an instance of this, a case has arisen within the last few days where a man was summoned whose child had been buried six months, and he was fined 1s. and costs, altogether amounting to about 8s. 6d.,

and being unable or unwilling to pay he was subsequently arrested at midnight in bed and taken to prison.

The fees alluded to in the Clerk's letter of the 23rd October last, are the 2s. 6d. per case as allowed at the Batley Borough Court, and 1s. per case at the Dewsbury Court, and according to article 18 of the before-mentioned order it appears to the Guardians that these sums should be paid to the Union Treasurer, as money recovered and received by him from the defendants as parts of the expenses which he incurs in and about the prosecution, and if he is put to any travelling or other expenses it is his duty to make out an account thereof and submit it to the Guardians. If the payment is in the shape of a compensation to him for his personal loss of time, then the Guardians consider that they are entitled to it, as he undertook to devote all his time to the duties of his office if requisite. It is not correct that he takes no part either in paying or receiving, as he has settled many cases himself at the Court after the summons has been issued without going before the Justices, and received sums as high as 7s. 6d. per case, and paid the Justices' Clerk's fees out and retained his own.

The Guardians think that to allow an officer of the Union to receive such large sums of money in one day for wholesale prosecutions is most objectionable, as it gives him a sinister interest in instituting proceedings without first making proper enquiries, as if he made proper inquiry in many cases proceedings would be unnecessary, and he would thus be put to some trouble without fee. Moreover it has had the effect of inducing him to take cases to the Batley Borough Court, where he is allowed the greatest fee, and this in defiance of the resolution of the Guardians of the 3rd December, 1875, to which attention was drawn in the Clerk's letter to your Board of the 26th May last.

Mr. Marriott has also repeatedly intimated to the Guardians that he would take the service of all summonses out of the hands of the police, and serve them himself or by his son, in order to obtain the fee for service and attendance, and this is another reason which induces the Guardians to object to him respecting the fees in question.

The Chairman and Vice-chairman all contradict the statement that they had ever expressed an opinion to the effect referred to by Mr. Marriott in his letter. The Guardians hope that the opinion expressed by your Honourable Board on this question will be re-considered with the additional information herein given, as they fear that if he is supported by your Board in retaining these fees, it will have the effect

of still further destroying their influence and authority over him, and of encouraging him to persevere in disregarding their lawful orders and directions applicable to the duties of his office.

The Guardians also wish to take this opportunity of reminding your Board that they have not yet received any acknowledgment of the Clerk's letter of the 26th May last, and they would be much obliged by an early reply to the question therein asked and also to this letter.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH PEACE.

The Local Government Board,

Whitehall, London, S.W.

Local Government Board,

Whitehall, S. W.,

24th September, 1878.

Sir,

I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that they have had under their consideration the returns which have been made by the Vaccination Officer of the Dewsbury Union during the three years, 1875, 1876 and 1877, and they regret to observe that each of these returns shews that a very large proportion of the children whose births are registered in the Union are unaccounted for as regards Vaccination. Of the children born in these three years, there may, according to these returns, still be 4,774 unprotected against Small Pox.

As the duty of enforcing the Vaccination Acts has evidently not been properly performed during these years, in the Dewsbury Union, I am directed to call the attention of the Guardians to the subject, and to request that the Board may be informed what steps the Guardians propose to take for giving effect to the provisions of the law.

An abstract of the returns made by the Vaccination Officer for the three years above referred to is enclosed for the information of the Guardians.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. ROTTON,

Assistant Secretary.

To Joseph Peace, Esq.,

Clerk to the Guardians of the Dewsbury Union,
Staincliffe, Dewsbury.

	Births.	Successful Vaccinations.	Unsuccessful Vaccination.	Had Small Pox.	Dead Unvac- cinated.	Postponed.	Removals, &c.,	Unaccounted.
DEWSBURY.								
1875	5323	3456		1	648	45	112	1061
1876	5661	3031	2	1	756	42	40	1789
1st half 1877	2867	1324	1		276	5		1261
2nd half 1877	2948	1812			385	87	1	668

18TH OCTOBER, 1878.

It was resolved unanimously, on the motion of Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Brown, that the following reply be sent to the Local Government Board with reference to the question contained in their letter of the 24th ultimo, viz :—We are duly in receipt of yours of the 24th ultimo, and beg again to remind your Board that the Vaccination Officer has for a considerable time been carrying out the law in such manner and way as he has thought fit, and in open defiance of a resolution passed by the Guardians and without consulting or recognizing them. He has further openly and frequently stated that he is not under the control of the Guardians, but is the servant of the Local Government Board ; and in this course we have understood your Board have supported him in thus setting the Guardians at defiance. It has been with great reluctance that the Guardians have passed cheques for the payment of his salary, believing as a representative body they were not faithfully discharging the trust reposed in them by the ratepayers of the Union, and sacrificing their dignity and power as a corporate body, did they not openly protest against what they believe to be official insubordination. We would call the attention of your Board to our letters, dated respectively May 26th, 1877, and January 11th, 1878, relative to this officer's conduct, both of which communications your Board have as yet failed to answer. The invidious and humiliating position, in which the Guardians stand in relation to this officer, precludes them at present from recognizing him in any such manner as your letter of the 24th ultimo suggests ; and inasmuch as he has hitherto taken proceedings before the magis-

trates against defaulters contrary to the express instructions of the Guardians, as contained in the resolution of the 14th of July, 1876, and whether legally or otherwise has obtained convictions, and in this course of proceeding has met with the support of the magistrates and of your Board, the Guardians fail to see the slightest necessity for any action on their part with regard to future proceedings in cases of default.

APPENDIX.

The following letters have passed between the Chairman of the Board of Guardians (Mr. Wm. Frederick Fox), the Home Secretary, and the Local Government Board :—

Alexandra Crescent,
Dewsbury, July 20th, 1879.

To the Right Honourable R. A. Cross,
Sir,

Allow me to direct your attention to what appears to many here to be a case of illegal and unwarrantable tyranny.

The Vaccination Officer for the Dewsbury Union, acting in opposition to, and in open defiance of the Board of Guardians, and without any authority from the Local Government Board, as elicited in the court, this last week is summoning poor people in batches of from 40 to 70 at one time ; and although the magistrates here and at Batley are aware of the fact, they grant summonses and fine those brought before them in a wholesale fashion, taking great care that conscientious objectors to this questionable medical rite should be fined the maximum penalty of 20s. and costs.

The benches are further aware that the officer settles many cases out of court, on payment of sums of money, varying from 6s. 6d. to 9s., thus constituting himself prosecutor, jury and judge.

The magistrates are also aware that the said officer summons these people to court without ever personally visiting and inquiring into the cases, as required by the Vaccination Acts.

The court further allows fees to the officer in each case, varying from 1s. to 2s. 6d., which the officer retains in his own pocket, which I read should go to the General Fund of the Union.

When a corporate body like a Board of Guardians is openly set at defiance by a paid Officer of the Board ; and a district is tyrannized and prosecuted for money gain to the officer ; I need not apologise for soliciting your interference with a magistracy who,

to save Vaccination from reproach, are aiding and abetting the officer in these questionable and tyrannical proceedings.

I am,

Yours, &c.,

WM. FRED FOX,

Chairman Dewsbury Board of Guardians.

Whitehall,

25th July, 1879.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 20th instant, respecting the proceedings of the Vaccination Officer of Dewsbury Union, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Cross to acquaint you, that your application should have been addressed to the President of the Local Government Board, to whom it has accordingly been forwarded, and whose decision thereon will be communicated to you in due course.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

V. J. O. LIDDELL.

The Chairman of the Board of Guardians,
Dewsbury.

Local Government Board,

Whitehall, S. W.,

8th August, 1879.

Sir,

I am directed by the Local Government Board to inform you that your letter of the 20th ultimo to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the proceedings of the Vaccination Officer of the Dewsbury Union, has been forwarded to this Board; and I am to state that it will receive their consideration.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

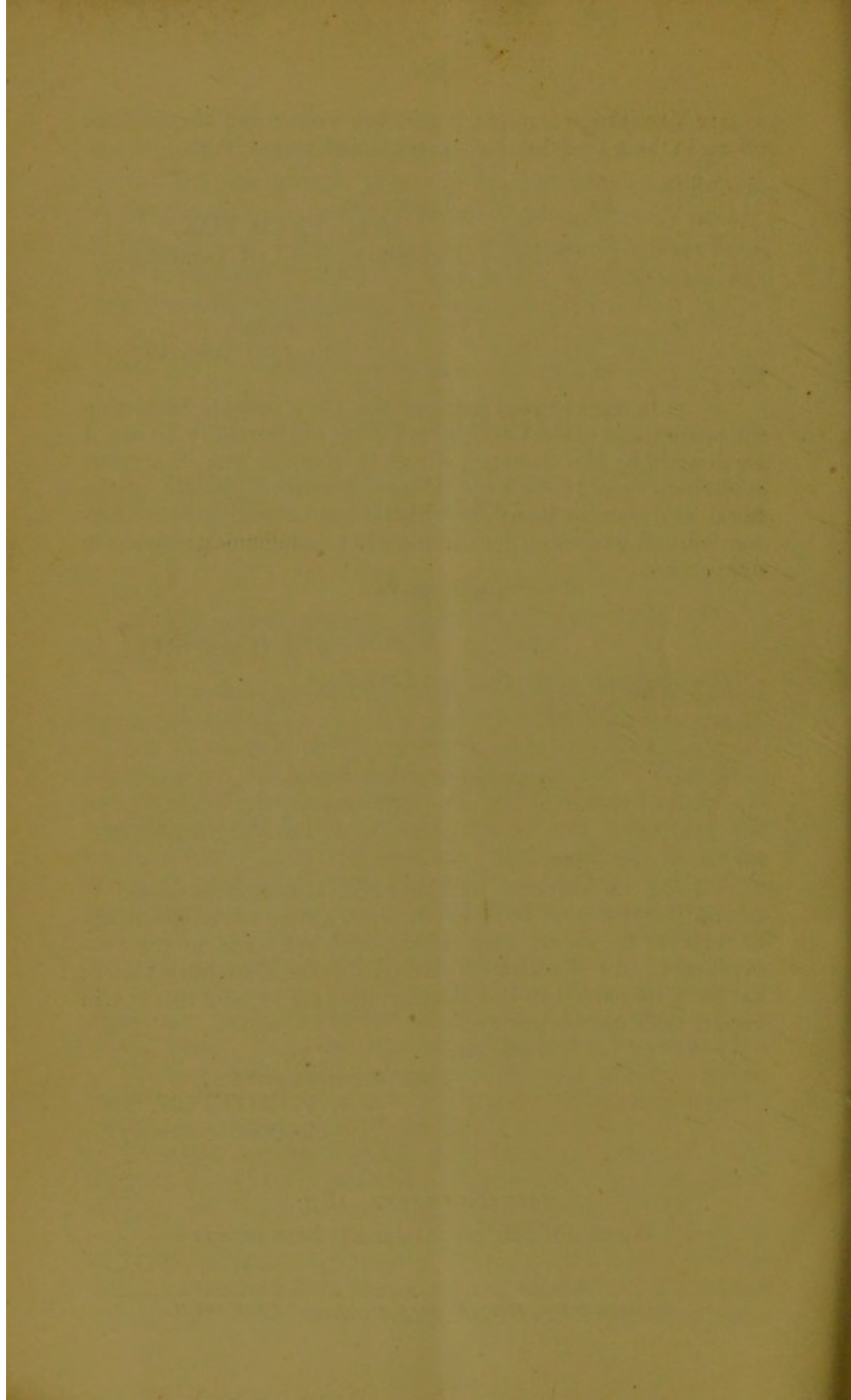
J. F. ROTTON,

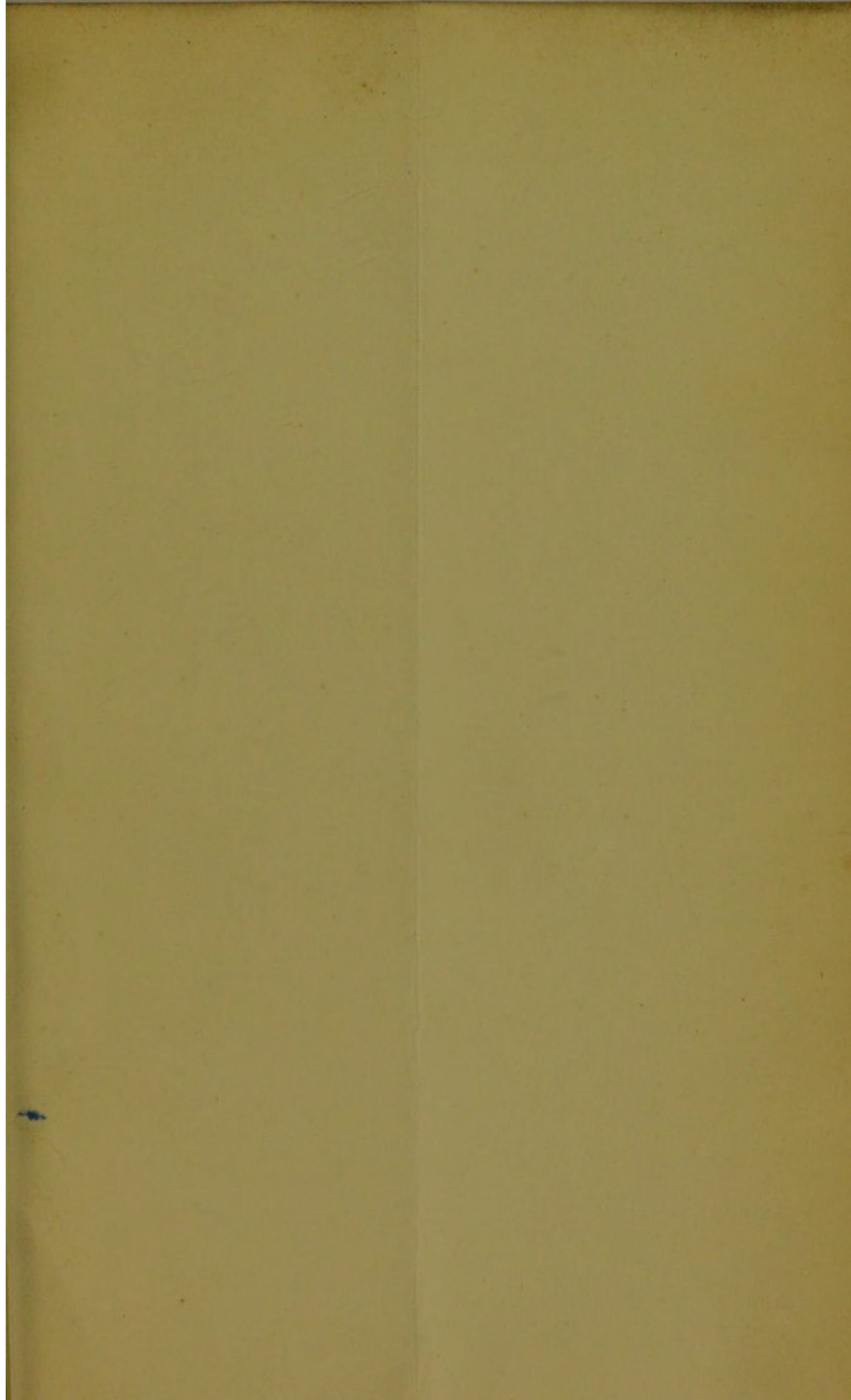
Assistant Secretary.

21ST NOVEMBER, 1879.

Up to this date no answer has been received.

W. F. FOX.





Dewsbury Poor Law Union.

CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN THE

DEWSBURY BOARD OF GUARDIANS

AND

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD,

IN REFERENCE TO THE MODE OF CARRYING OUT THE COMPULSORY
CLAUSES OF THE

VACCINATION ACTS.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE GUARDIANS.



OSSETT:

S. COCKBURN & SON, PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS,
OBSERVER OFFICE.

1879.