

that can in any way throw light upon the subject. Circumstances of no interest in a medical or surgical point of view are often of the greatest importance in legal medicine. To enable him to meet questions that must arise during the progress of the examination, his observation must not be confined to the recognition and treatment of the case; it should take a wider range and embrace all the surrounding facts and incidences, which may, in the aid of his memory, be reduced to writing; but to make his notes or memoranda admissible in court, they should be taken on the spot and at the time the observations are made, and with accuracy, as they will be subject to the scrutiny of the bar.

Before any suspicious circumstances have come to light the witness may have been summoned to a person dying from the effects of a wound or poison, who may make a "dying declaration" of the circumstances. This declaration should be taken in writing, on the spot, at the time, and in the exact words made use of by the person. It has been thought necessary to prove that the person making the declaration had lost all hope of recovery, but under the difficulty of forming an opinion as to when the feeling of hope completely deserts a man, it is considered sufficient for all purposes, the man being dangerously ill, if he expresses his belief that he is dying. Such declarations are only admissible as evidence in cases of homicide, not in civil cases.

Now, gentlemen, having directed your attention to some of the points connected with the duties and responsibilities of a medical witness, the questions may be asked when, and under what circumstances is he compelled to give evidence? When may he refuse his testimony?—having given it, is he entitled to remuneration? and how should he deport himself when in the witness box?

Every individual of ordinary understanding is bound, when called upon, to testify before a court of law, to what he sees and what he hears.

A privilege has been claimed by medical men, that they should not divulge statements made to them in confidence by