

If called on one side, you unduly magnify the injuries, or if called by the other you unduly minimize—you are not acting fairly to yourself or to an honorable profession. If you say there is nothing in the injury, that it is only temporary and will quickly wear away, etc., etc., in a glib off-hand way, the jury probably won't believe you. You may question, are not lawyers open to similar criticism? My answer is, No, because the public know that the profession of a lawyer is to be the advocate of one side, and the public expect he will deal with one side of the case only and present it as favorably as possible. You must remember your reputation and the reputation of your learned profession. Fifty years of good honest service and honest conduct may be overridden by ten minutes of dis-service or ten minutes of bad conduct. There are good and bad members in both professions, and it is highly important that you should treat it as a serious matter. It is unwise to be jocular or flippant. Lawyers know human nature, and very often if they can trap a witness into appearing to be jocular, they immediately seize the opportunity to impress the jury when they come to address them with the consideration that a witness who was so lively and flippant is not to be trusted. The lecturer then enlarged upon the ethics of the two professions, and particularly as to those which should be observed by medical men when on the witness stand, and concluded his lecture by making some suggestions as to the requirements necessary in taking dying declarations, stating that it often happened that the medical man was the only available person of intelligence to make a note of serious statements which might become most material later, either upon the trial of an offender, or in some civil action.

He said: In taking dying declarations, it is necessary to be assured of the fact that the victim believes that he is dying. Such belief should also be stated in any written declaration signed. In other words, the written declaration should be preceded by a statement which indicated that the declarant was under that firm belief. If a magistrate is not procurable to take the deposition or statement, the medical man should take it. He should, if possible, have another witness present. If the victim cannot sign the statement, the medical man should read out his statement. He should satisfy himself that the victim is convinced that he is going to die and, as I said before, start his written account with statement of that fact. This statement should be unqualified. It won't do to start with such an expression as "No hope of my recovery at present." Such a qualification would utterly prevent its being used. The exact words of the victim should be written down. No questions should be asked, except to clear up any obscurity, and the statements should be limited to what was done to the deponent at the time that the injuries were inflicted. His own