

CHAPTER XVI

"Leslie's Weekly" on Doctor Wiley as an "Expert" Witness

(Copied from the issue of May 14, 1908.)

AN EXPERT WHO DOES NOT QUALIFY.

The man who has been spending a good deal of the people's money in making unscientific experiments as the chief chemist of the bureau of chemistry, at Washington, has been set forth by a good many newspapers as an expert in reference to the effect of food preservatives on the human system. The notoriety which this Dr. Wiley has achieved at the public's expense has not been to the best advantage of the cause of pure food reform. The obstreperous doctor, having achieved notoriety, loves to linger in the light of publicity. In a recent trial at Washington he was a prominent witness, but he cut a sorry figure. During his cross-examination the "chief chemist of the bureau of chemistry" disclaimed qualifications as a druggist, expert in drugs, physician, and even as a food expert, although he has claimed at various hearings before congressional committees to be an expert on practically everything pertaining to medicine and chemistry.

On account of Dr. Wiley's age and the exalted governmental position he holds, one would expect that his testimony would be given with a certain degree of dignity. We append some of the answers that he gave in the case of the "*United States vs. Harper*." It is hard to conceive anything more flippant, we might almost say blasphemous, than the last two answers printed in the cross-examination herewith given.

Dr. Wiley cross-examined by Mr. Tucker:

Mr. Tucker: Well, you have written a book, have you not, on—what is the title of your book, doctor?

Dr. Wiley: I cannot remember it.

Mr. Tucker: *You cannot remember the title of your book?*

Dr. Wiley: No, sir.

Mr. Tucker: Well, I will read the title to you—"Foods and their Adulteration; Wiley: illustrated."