

In speaking of the expert medical witness, Mr. Justice Riddell said that it would never do to limit the right of the prosecution or defence to call upon witnesses. The opinion of any one person, however eminent, would not satisfy all parties. The most eminent may differ. In like manner, there is the right of an appeal in law. He was equally pronounced in his opinion that it would not do to have a certain number of official experts who would give evidence in all such cases as called for expert testimony. This he held would not meet the requirements of court trials. It could be argued that every science, art and trade might ask for the same thing. The medical profession must be treated as are engineers, or surveyors or architects.

In this view of the case there can be no doubt about the soundness of Mr. Justice Riddell's opinion. We cannot imagine anything that would give rise to a more pronounced storm of objection than an attempt to take away from the citizen his right to call his own witnesses. The public could never be induced to rest satisfied with the expert opinion of a few state appointed medical experts. Our present system is not perfect, but the substitution of paid state experts for those selected by the defence with perfect freedom of choice would work chaos in our courts, and end in a complete breakdown of public confidence. "Make us rather bear those ills we have, than fly to others that we know not of." It is and ever will be beyond the wit of man to arrange our court procedure on any cast iron methods. The citizen must be allowed the fullest latitude in choosing the lines of his defence. To take this away, by arranging for him by the state, his expert medical witness, would be to strike at the very foundation of personal liberty, which has come down to us as the result of countless expenditure of blood and treasure.

The remedy is the one pointed out by Mr. Justice Riddell. Let the medical witness be honest and truthful, and do his duty, his whole duty, in the witness box, as he would do it at the bedside of the poorest of land where there is no hope of a fee, and we will soon have heard the end of the unpleasant criticisms of the expert medical witness. Remember the words of Wolsey in Henry VIII, "Corruption wins not more than honesty."

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND.

This organization is only eight years old. During this time it has done very much to clarify the cancer problem. If a cure has not been found, and the real cause laid bare, yet, good work has been done. Much has been done to show to what extent cancer is hereditary, and how much is due to repeated irritations and traumatisms, greatly to