

faith in the good sense of mankind in general, we might fear that the propagation of the human species would be reduced to the stockfarm basis. This perfection of system of course would make it easy for the ladies, for all of their gowns could be fitted to the Venus de Milo, but like all great schemes it would have its drawbacks—Byron with his deformed foot, Milton with his sightless eyes, Robert Louis Stevenson with his tubercular lungs, and a host of others would have been promptly dispatched under such a system, and aside from the mere question of brains, the world would be a heavy loser by the removal of such men as the German Emperor, who, though he has a palsied arm, has originated a style in moustaches that has created a greater sensation than did Kipling's Recessional.

The office of the physician is to conserve life, not to destroy it. The most hideous monstrosity is protected by the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," and the patient, who, suffering from an incurable or painful malady, would wish to end it all, must adopt the method of Hamlet and shoulder his own responsibilities.

Expert witnesses have in many cases been subject to the ridicule of communities, and often with a show of reason. I presume that you are all more or less conversant with cases that have been tried in Courts, in which one set of medical witnesses has been heard to give testimony directly opposed to that of another set.

Before concluding that some one was lying, or at least, before concluding that such testimony is valueless, I ask you to visit a so-called Court of justice, and watch the revolutions of its ponderous wheels. Watch the antics of lawyers whose object it is, not to get the whole truth, but only such part of it as may be favourable to their cause. Listen well to the rulings of the Court, for it will be a revelation to you. If you are a conscientious man you will go home each night and pray earnestly not to be allowed to fall into the sin of misjudging others—for if you do not do this you will be sure to conclude that the Court is more concerned in having his judgment stand on appeal, than he is in meeting out justice to the litigants.

The medical man appears in a murder trial to establish the cause of death. The victim was shot through the heart. He swears that the wound was the cause of death. The murdered man was fifty years of age. His father died of cerebral apoplexy. The lawyer for the defence asks: "Did you examine the brain of the deceased?" Answer: "No." "Can you swear positively that he didn't die of apoplexy?" Answer: "No." "The man is a fool," say you. "Not at all." If he said "Yes," he would be made out a perjurer.