

truth without suppression of the true or suggestion of the false; 3. When you have answered the question, shut up.

The observation of these rules, simple as they seem, will avoid much trouble and aid the witness very much.

Mr. Justice Riddell dealt out some hard remarks against the talkative and jesting witness. He said that a trial in court was always a serious matter, and that there was no place in it for frivolity and flippancy. Juries, as a rule, greatly discounted the jesting witness. On the other hand, nothing impresses a judge and jury so much in a witness than a quiet and dignified manner. No lawyer can make much headway against such a witness.

Questions should be answered for the jury. The simplest question is entitled to a careful answer, as what may appear simple to judge, counsel and doctor, may not be so to the jury. It is never wise to show indignation at a question, however simple it may be. Answers should be given in plain language; and, as the court affords no place for jesting, neither does it for slang. Technical terms should be avoided as far as possible.

The medical witness should be careful of his appearance. The sloven and the fop are not likely to impress a jury. It is important also to be in a good physical condition when one goes into the witness box to undergo a severe examination. The medical witness should prepare himself by referring to notes, etc., and he should never lose his temper.

Mr. Justice Riddell referred at some length to the complaints raised about the so-called abuses of cross-examinations. There is no way of avoiding cross-examinations. It is the only way of finding out to the full, the opinions of the witness, or his knowledge upon the subject under consideration. The medical witness that tells the truth in plain language, and does not lose his temper, has nothing from any cross examination. This is the only way of checking what the witness has said in reply to the counsel who first examined him. "Some way of testing the accuracy of evidence must be provided—and no means yet discovered can compare for a moment with cross-examination."

Then the "most important matter of all is honesty." Here Mr. Justice Riddell paid a tribute to medical witnesses as a class by stating that in most instances they were honest. The medical witness who perverts the truth to alter the verdict of the court in any way is a thief. To this, there can be no exception taken. The medical witness who conceals or exaggerates knowingly, is committing a grave wrong, indeed is making himself a contemptible liar. There have been some painful examples of this form of exaggeration, or worse, wilful lying in criminal trials, especially when the defence of insanity is set up.