

All barristers are not gentlemen, and oftentimes the privilege allowed them is abused by irrelevant questions being put in an impudent and insulting manner, justifying the severe reprimand given to a learned sergeant by Chief Justice Earle, who said : "The freedom of question allowed to the Bar was a public nuisance, and the barrister who made such an imputation ought to be prosecuted. If a question had relation to the truth, he was most anxious that it should be put, but to cast haphazard imputations at the suggestion of a person who might have no scruples as to what he did, was a degree of mischief that made him wish that a party should be prosecuted. He begged leave to say that in his experience he had seen counsel so abuse their privilege that he had cordially wished a power could be instituted that they might be prosecuted for a misdemeanor."

But, gentlemen, while we justly condemn such conduct in the barrister, may we not ask ourselves the question, does not the medical witness sometimes call forth such questioning by the character of his answers? Does he always go upon the stand possessing a thorough knowledge of the subject upon which he is to be examined? Is his judgment never warped by prejudice for or against one side or the other, or in favour of some hastily formed theory? I fear truth compels us to acknowledge that such exhibitions are occasionally observed in the witness box, that tend to degrade our profession in the eyes of the Court. For, believe me, the profession as a body are more or less judged by the short-comings of the individual member.

The variety of subjects upon which a medical jurist may be questioned would naturally make most men timid, unless they had previously given the subject that consideration. I urge. While it is not expected that he should be so profoundly versed in all the principles of medicine and medical jurisprudence as to be able to solve every medical difficulty that may occur during the trial of a civil or criminal case, he is supposed to possess an average knowledge of his profession and of the duties and responsibilities of a medical witness. Of course the more profound his knowledge, and the more he has made himself