

there cannot be any mistake about what he does mean. The capacity to express one's thoughts, the ability to put in words and in decent English what it is desired to convey, is another thing upon which the value of a witness's testimony depends.

Another thing is his honesty. Medical witnesses are generally honest. The medical man who will allow himself to be approached, and who will give evidence contrary to fact or contrary to his real opinion, for the purpose of enabling the plaintiff to get a larger verdict out of a railway company is as much a thief, is as much a criminal, and should be behind the bars just as truly, as a man who opens a bank with dynamite. (Applause.)

Now, the object of cross-examination is to determine how far is the man's testimony to be relied upon, how far is what he is stating the actual fact. I remember once defending a man and woman for murder. A very graphic description was given by a young girl about thirteen or fourteen years of age of a whole series of circumstances, which she detailed so well and vividly that one could see that they led to an irresistible conclusion, that the man and woman in the dock were guilty of murder. I cross-examined at some length and with some care. Her story wavered. Each time we approached the story from a different point of view it charred. One little circumstance was modified, and little contradictions began to appear. By a little careful leading, or perhaps by a good deal of careful leading, she began contradicting her story in important points. Before the cross-examination was through she had contradicted her whole story, and that not by inadvertence, but of intention. She had yielded to the suggestion of the stronger mind. She had been living for three months in the home of a well-known enemy of the prisoners. The judge discharged the prisoners, and would not allow the matter to go to the jury. I was asked by a clergyman ten minutes after the acquittal, "How could you get that girl to lie the way she did; did you think it was honest or right to ask her those questions?" I answered, "Yes, eternally so." He said, "Why! you knew she was telling what was not true?" "Yes, but I wanted the jury to see that girl had a mind of such a character as to yield to the suggestion of a stronger mind—that she would allow to be instilled into her brain thoughts which had never been there, and thoughts which ought not to be there, thus showing that she was easily influenced." Then, taking the fact that she had been in the house of a well-known enemy of the accused for two or three months, the danger of allowing such evidence to procure a conviction was obvious.

I say, cross-examination is one of the most valuable of weapons for arriving at the truth, and I speak of it because there