

There is seldom much difficulty in getting through our examination-in-chief, especially if we have been so indiscreet as to allow the examining counsel to elicit from us, before hand, all that we are prepared to testify. He will have taken good care so to construct and arrange his questions as to draw from us all that suits his purpose, and all that makes against the opposite side; and he will treat us with the most charming courtesy; but when the opposite counsel sets to work, to perplex and annoy, brow-beat and bully, stultify and mortify us, then we find it well both to have, and to have had, all our wits about us, for assuredly he will not fail to profit by every indication we may give of modest confusion, or of inadvertent inconsistency. It will be in vain that we endeavour to explain; he wants not our explanations, and will take good care that we shall not set ourselves right. It is his business to set us wrong, and he will do it if he can. He will make us appear as ridiculous and mendacious as he can, and he will, in doing so, manifest towards us so much scorn, and even virtuous indignation, that we almost conclude he will never again tolerate us in society, or bow to us on the streets. But if we suppose that because he has done all this, he is really angry, or that he regards us as the vile and stupid creatures he has laboured to exhibit us, we shall be greatly mistaken, and shall be equally unjust to him and to ourselves; he knows the truth all through, and in his soul, he respects us, and admires our pluck, if we shew that we have it. Do not feel wrathful towards him, because he has earnestly done his *work*. It may, to be sure, in your estimation, have been very *dirty* work, and you may, in your verdancy, wonder how any man could, merely for his fee, have done it; yet remember that you too have had to do some very dirty work in your time, not, indeed, for any pecuniary compensation, but to qualify yourselves in after life for the earning of honest and honourable compensation for your services to *your clients*. Though you may not have robbed your honest neighbour of his fair fame, yet you have robbed the grave of its sacred deposits; and though the moral stench of the swearing-shop may be very offensive to your now refined olfactories, do not forget how inoffensive to you custom rendered the odours of the dissecting-room.

It is much to be feared that if lawyers sometimes handle medical witnesses rather indecorously, we may ourselves too frequently have tempted, or impelled them, to the indecency. The sturdy confidence and ill-concealed ignorance with which we sometimes have heard members of our profession deliver their testimony, or their crude opinion on questions of much obscurity, has too often been more than our own forbearance could well tolerate. If the examining counsel has mastered his case as he should do, need we wonder that he contrives to put his man into a tight corner?