

upon the greatest practitioner in the Province, one who is known and loved by you all, to address you. He tells me that an address less than an hour long is not worthy of the name, so I propose to hold a watch upon him and see that he does not shirk his duty. (Laughter.) I will now call on Hon. Dr. Helmcken.

The veteran of the profession was warmly welcomed as he responded to the call. He understood, he explained, that a lecture lasting less than an hour, was no lecture at all, but he did not propose to give a lecture, merely a talk. He then dived at once into his subject.

HON. DR. HELMCKEN'S ADDRESS.

What "matter" may really be : Whether or how it originated is unknown, perhaps unknowable. Much, however, is known about its properties ; that it undergoes various and numerous changes in form and combination, nothing however being lost. It is to these changes that the terms "beginning" and "end," life and death, are in ordinary language applied. Yet the beginning of one change has been, or is the end of a preceding one, and the end of the new change will result in another, so that in this respect there is neither beginning nor end ; but a ring of changes, a circle without a beginning and without a termination. Examining into the causes of these changes in the form of matter, it will be found that they all ensue from, and are governed by so-called natural law. It seems indeed as though every particle of matter, whether organic or inorganic, has, under certain conditions, special and imperative functions or duties to perform, these, as it were, being stamped on them by law. In this sense every atom may be considered