

soon as this blissful state is attained by either the lawyers or the theologians.

The lawyer engaged on one side or the other of a criminal suit finds that medical points are necessarily to be raised, or thinks that they may be raised with advantage to his cause. We all know that almost every important case occurring in our daily practise presents some one or more features that are unusual, are rare, are sometimes almost inexplicable, and criminal cases are no exception to the rule. Counsel therefore looks about for some one of our profession to assist him. He presents his statement to a medical man and finds that his opinion is not of a nature to serve the purpose he has in mind. He goes to another, and another, until finally he finds one who entertains opinions to suit him, or approximating thereto, and this one he engages to appear on the stand as an expert. One defect in our present law is that this man may be subpoenaed to appear in court at an inconvenient hour and distance, to the disappointment of his own patients, to the neglect of any or every other professional engagement, and kept waiting the rather indefinite period of time for the paltry remuneration of fifty cents a day and eight cents a mile for travelling expenses. Such instances are, of course, exceedingly rare, and, as a rule, the medical expert is fairly compensated. In some cases the fee is agreed upon beforehand; in a few an effort is made to have it dependent upon the issue of the case—a condition which cannot be too strongly reprehended.

I believe that medical men, almost without exception, when they go into a case, fully intend and mentally resolve not to take sides; that they will make every effort when on the stand to live up to their oath and to be as impartial as the judge upon the bench. But even the judge does not always succeed in not taking sides, and the doctor, like the judge, is but human. Moreover, he, unlike the judge, has, in private at least, expressed an opinion, and he certainly wants to see that opinion prevail, primarily because he believes it to be the correct one, secondarily because it is his. In all callings, from religion to politics, every man innately rejoices in convincing others

of the correctness of his view. Moreover, the lawyer is, collaterally at least, and in many cases primarily, working to win because his client is paying him. Had he been paid by the prosecution instead of the defence he would have taken an entirely different view of the case. He would not in either event tell an untruth; but he would under different circumstances attach very different opinions as to the credibility of witnesses; would cite another set of authorities and of precedents; would express to the jury an exactly opposite opinion, and call upon them as good men and true to render a diametrically opposite verdict. The unfortunate medical expert is also human, subject to like temptations and influences as other men. He knows the public puts him on a different plane from the counsel, and expects him to tell what he believes to be the exact truth, no matter whom it may help or hurt. But then, there are many points about which a man may be in doubt; about which he may entertain one belief at one time in his life and another at another—I had almost said that he may believe as he chooses to believe—points that are not matters of fact, capable of demonstration, but absolutely and wholly matters of opinion. And he knows that as the case now stands the side from which he accepts payment expects him to believe and express opinions tending in a certain direction.

(To be Continued.)

NERVE GRAFTING.—Mr. Mays Robson has shown the Clinical Society of London a girl, aged 14, on whom he had successfully grafted two and one-half inches of the posterior tibial nerve into a corresponding gap in the median nerve in the forearm. The graft was taken from an amputated leg 48 hours after the tumor of the girl's forearm had been removed, and in 36 hours after the insertion of the graft sensation in the parts supplied by the median had so far returned that the touch of a pencil could be localized. In five weeks there was perfect localization of the slightest touch, and although there was manifest diminution in volume of the abductor and flexor pollicis, they were not completely paralyzed.