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AN ADDRESS UPON MEDICAL EVIDENCE BEFORE  
THE LAW COURTS.

(Read before the New Brunswick Medical Society)

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GENTLEMEN,—I have selected for discussion this evening the subject of “Medical Evidence before the Law Courts,” not with the view of bringing forward anything new, but for the purpose of directing your attention to a subject, the importance of which, I cannot help believing, is not recognized by all of us with the weight that attaches to it.

I need only to remind you that the responsibility assumed by a medical man when he enters the witness box for the purpose of recording his testimony is great indeed, inasmuch as the guilt or innocence of the accused too often rests upon his evidence, and upon his deportment in that box will he be judged for better or for worse.

The position is often a trying one. Barristers are intrusted with almost unlimited powers of interrogation,—they may insist upon answers to the most painful questioning. There are no *medical secrets* in a court of law; a medical witness must answer every question that is relevant to the case, and its relevancy is a matter to be decided by the presiding judge. But no man is bound to answer any question that would in any way criminate himself.