

testimony. If the aristocracy of the profession are beyond reproach, the commonalty will follow in their footsteps, and the profession at large be freed from a reproach not wholly deserved, but having but too well established grounds for its existence.

An exceedingly hearty vote of thanks was passed by all the Fellows present, moved by Dr. N. A. Powell and seconded by Dr. A. A. Macdonald.

Mr. Justice Riddell, in replying, said in part:

"I have entirely failed in one chief object of my address to-night if I have not made clear that the members of the medical profession must take hold of this matter of expert evidence themselves.

"The Judges cannot help you, they are bound by precedent; the lawyers will not, they have their account in the disagreement of experts; the legislature cannot be expected to give medical men as witnesses a position different from or superior to that of any other class of the community.

Now, while there are, of course, black sheep in the medical as in every other profession, their number is not great; and with the exception of these few, I am confident an enlightened regard for truth, for the good of the public and of the profession, must be all-powerful. Even the black sheep have some regard for their general repute among their brethren. If they knew that a doctor who gave a dishonest opinion would be shunned and scorned like any other perjurer even their conduct would be more nearly honest.

"There is no reason why medical experts should not stand at the very head of all expert witnesses, as they ought, instead of being, as they are, at the very foot. And I am not entirely without hope that the day is not far distant when such will be the case. If anything I have said will help, in however small a degree, to speed that day, I shall feel amply repaid."

#### NOTE.\*

Let me explain what I mean.

Paracelsus had a vulnerary ointment or weapon-salve made after this recipe: "Take of usnia (*i.e.*, the mossy growth upon the weathered skull of a criminal, who had been hanged and left