

days) tied around one end of the stick, and make it tight with thread, No. 30 preferred; dip that into a solution of nitrate of silver and swab out the throat. That was the treatment, and the only treatment. Prognosis, too, was certain. (Laughter.) Repeat that treatment. If the child gets better, it probably will not die. (Laughter.) If it takes a turn for the worse and dies, then the case is hopeless. (Laughter and applause.) There were no cultures in those days. They had beef tea, indeed, but it was used for feeding the patient, not the bacteria. They had nothing in the way of incubators and the like that you put into your waistcoat pockets, or into the axilla of the patient in order to develop bacteria. There was then no difference of opinion as to diagnosis, treatment, prognosis. Now, I see no two medical men seem to be able to agree except on this point: "If you get a really costly medicine, the more of it you administer the better the result." (Laughter and applause.)

Like my friend, Dr. McKenzie, when I was asked to read a paper before this Association I had some little difficulty in coming to a conclusion as to what kind of paper would probably answer your requirements best. As, however, I had already, at the request of the Medical Faculty of the University of Toronto, prepared a series of lectures for the medical students upon the subject of "Medical Men in Court," I thought it might not be out of place to take part of one of these lectures, change it somewhat, and adapt it to the "meaner capacity," as the Shorter Catechism has it, and give you that. That will account for the didactic tone which I propose to use. You will please consider yourselves students who are sitting at the feet of Gamaliel and learning from him.

In the English language the adjective has three degrees of comparison: The positive, the comparative, and the superlative. The noun substantive, with the exception of a very few words, has nothing of the kind. One of these exceptions is the useful and expressive word "liar." There are three kinds of liars:—there is the liar, the d—d liar, and the expert witness. (Laughter and applause.) Now, that gibe, that proverb, derives most of its vogue from the medical witness. And there is a modicum of truth concealed in it although when one considers what it means, and what it implies and considers what a medical witness, as a rule is, it will be found to be grossly extravagant and grossly unjust.

There are two kinds of witnesses: the common witness, who speaks as a matter of fact; the expert witness, who speaks as to a matter of opinion; and when we remember that an expert witness is only such when he is speaking as to a matter of opinion,