

Nature. True, the particular doctor dealing with the particular case may not know them, but they are there to be known by those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

How is it with Law? Every case that comes before a Judge is either one of pure law, as where there are no facts in dispute, or of facts only as where there is no question of law in dispute or, as generally happens, is one where there are questions both of law and fact involved. Let us take a case involving only a question of law. Here we are brought face to face with one of the peculiar difficulties of those whose laws are written in the English language, namely this, that our glorious English tongue is, above all those of the modern world, ambiguous. It is copious and that very copiousness leads to minute differences in meaning, so that it needs great care to embody any important proposition in the form of English without running the risk of being misunderstood. Now questions of law are largely questions of language, such as the construction of a statute or of inferences to be drawn from a certain decision. What does the statute mean? What does the decision mean? In answering these questions may arise dissensions, differences of opinion, appeals, and yet more appeals, and the long train of after consequences which sometimes gives law so ill-omened a name among those who have had to invoke its aid.

But there is something more. Lawyers and Judges are perhaps struggling with the construction of a statute in an honest effort to interpret the meaning of those who have promulgated it, and yet the fact may be that those who have promulgated it had no clear idea of what they themselves meant. The intention may have been to remedy some evil, but just what the evil was and how far it could be eradicated by legislation, and how best to frame the necessary legislation, these things may not have been considered by those who proposed and drafted the Act in question, or, if considered, the legislators were unable to embody their ideas in language, and so the law comes before the public and the Courts, like the famous leg of mutton that Dr. Johnson partook of in the Highlands, "ill-fed, ill-killed, ill-kept and ill-dressed." The Judge, therefore, in deciding a point of law in your case or