

as people believed was constantly occurring in courts of justice. He said: "My opinion of witnesses is that a large proportion of them should be divided into three classes—liars, d—d liars and experts." (Laughter.)

I want to say one word on the matter of giving testimony, and I am done. Do try, gentlemen, in giving your evidence in courts of justice, to use plain language. If there is one thing more discouraging to the mentality of the jury or judge than another it is what I call "medical jargon." Don't exaggerate; if you are called by a plaintiff who is perhaps claiming damages for an injury, don't speak of his wound as being a "frightful" one; don't speaking of bleeding as an "enormous" hemorrhage. Say the wound was two inches long; he lost five or six ounces of blood; it is much more satisfactory to everybody. Avoid these alarming adjectives. The best sample of a witness that ever comes to my court is a child, twelve or fourteen years of age. They are simple, childish, not expecting traps, and you cannot shake them in their account of the main facts of the case, and usually carry conviction as to the truthfulness of their testimony.

Do not use mysterious terms and high-sounding language. There may arise a suspicion in the mind of the court that you are trying to cover up some weak spot in your own equipment, or if not that, you are afraid, if you would express your thoughts in popular language you might disturb some theory you are endeavoring to build up. Sacrifice elegance and even some consistency in the desire to be intelligible.

I wish you to consider this deliverance a mere talk. I have a few brief notes only. I came in the earnest hope that any few remarks I might make would explain to you how some of the impressions have arisen, which are so frequently ventilated when discussing the subject of expert testimony. It has been open to a great deal of criticism, some of it just and some of it unjust, but I think the root cause is largely a faulty method or system, and to devise a remedy I would like to see the medical profession join to procure legislation on the subject, so that a noble profession should not continue to be exposed to the rude gibes of the bar and public when called upon to give their testimony in our courts of justice. (Applause.)

A hearty vote of thanks to Judge McDougall for his address was moved by Dr. I. H. Cameron and seconded by Dr. Harrison, and carried unanimously.