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THE MEDICAL EXPERT AS A WITNESS.*

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Medical Profession,— You will allow me to say, in the first place, that I decline to look upon myself as an entire stranger in a gathering of medical men and women. True it is I do not have the honor of being a doctor of medicine, nor do I practise medicine (for which I duly offer up thanksgiving every day of my life), but I had the good fortune during my earlier years to study medicine for a short time in the same office as my friend, Dr. Powell; and that has given me an interest in medical subjects and in medical men which I have never lost, and which I trust I never shall lose.

The very interesting paper of Dr. McKenzie, and the still more interesting discussion which followed, struck me as I sat on the platform as furnishing a strong illustration of what Herbert Spencer and the evolutionists call differentiation, and the advance and evolution from the homogeneous to the heterogeneous. Now, when I studied medicine there was no such difficulty about diphtheria as there is now. The diagnosis, the treatment, the prognosis were perfectly simple. (Laughter.) If the neighbors' children had a sore throat and died, and my child had a sore throat, then it was diphtheria. If they had not died of sore throat, then it was not diphtheria. The treatment, too, was perfectly simple. Once a case is diagnosed as diphtheria—take a stick about six inches long with a piece of cotton rag more or less clean (they had no antiseptic or aseptic methods in those

* Address delivered at the meeting of Ontario Medical Association, Toronto, June, 1903.