

any individual event or phenomenon which is the object of sensation." "The essential idea of *opinion* seems to be that it is a matter about which doubt can reasonably exist, as to which two persons can without absurdity think differently." Strictly, then, a witness might not be able to say that a person was furious or talked incoherently without expressing opinions. To stick to fact, he would have to say that the man had knocked him down, and that he could not understand what he said. To save quibble, therefore, it would seem desirable to define the opinion which it is intended to reject, which would be sufficiently done by the slight verbal transposition suggested.

We must, in conclusion, venture to express the opinion that a court of law sometimes needs as much to be protected from the medical science of the barristers as from that of the physicians; for, according to what we have observed and experienced, the fine theories and hard words of the doctors are usually drawn out of them, more or less against their will, by the cross-examining barristers, who cannot afford to sacrifice the exhibition of the modicum of science which they have got up for the occasion. As an instance, a friend of ours had to give evidence at the last winter assizes against a young woman charged with the murder of her infant by a blow fracturing its skull. The counsel for the defence endeavoured to make him admit that the injury might have been caused by pressure against the *os uteri*, "the bone of the womb," as he learnedly translated it to the jury. "We have avoided technical terms thus far," said the doctor, "but do allow me to remind you that *os* means a mouth as well as a bone."

Whenever we have been drawn into seeming pedantry it has been in cross-examination; and it was in cross-examination that Dr. Winslow hit upon the ethico-pathological definition of Windham's insanity as a "paralysis of the moral sense." Really we ought, in self-defence, to insist upon the publication of the questions to which the replies are given for which we sometimes get laughed at. Let us, however, never forget Bacon's golden maxim—"Loquendum ut vulgus, sentiendum ut sapientes."

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#### APPOINTMENT.

Mr. S. W. D. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., &c., son of Dr. Williams, of the Gloucester Asylum, has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Northampton General Lunatic Asylum.