

Committee which is composed of Drs. A. D. Blackader and T. D. Reed, of Montreal; A. Marois, of Quebec; H. B. Small, Ottawa; H. I. Cameron, F. N. G. Starr, and J. N. MacCallum, of Toronto, will be able to stir up our legislators to settle the matter and make the British Pharmacopœia the sole authority for Canada. There are several ex-presidents in parliament, whose aid we think, could be counted on to assist in bringing about so desirable a conclusion.

In the mean time it may be noted that the representative medical body of the Dominion has, by unanimous vote given its "recommendation" of the British Pharmacopœia, of 1898.

### VACCINATION IN ENGLAND.

The greatest sensation in medical circles in England has been the Vaccination Act which has at last passed both houses amidst most stormy scenes, threatening indeed the defeat of the Government. Of the merits of the Bill little deserves to be said, and the best that the English profession could hope for it was that it might fail to pass or be withdrawn. Indeed, Lord Lister characterised it as a "Tremendous experiment." For, from making vaccination compulsory, a conscience clause has been introduced, and it was over this clause that the fight raged fiercest. It reads as follows :

"2 (1) No parent or other person shall be liable to any penalty under Section XXIX. or Section XXX. of the Vaccination Act of 1867 if, within four months from the birth of the child, he satisfies two justices or a stipendiary or metropolitan police magistrate in petty sessions that he conscientiously believes that vaccination would be prejudicial to the health of the child, and within seven days thereafter delivers to the vaccination officer for the district a certificate by such justices or magistrate of such conscientious objection.

"(2) This section shall come into operation on the passing of this Act, but in its application to a child born before the passing of this Act there shall be substituted for the period of four months from the birth of the child the period of four months from the passing of this Act."

Moreover, as the Act does not provide for revaccination, it practically means that for the next five years vaccination is purely a voluntary matter.

Mr. W. T. Stead, with his usual velocity, has come to judgment on this subject. He says :

"The second great victory which was gained last month in Britain was the defeat of the Government over the Vaccination Bill. This may seem a small thing to many, especially to those who take a super-