

tion was therefore now necessary. (Loud applause.) He could not understand all this bother about vaccination. It was clear that the Insurance Act, by providing for the visits of a doctor to the homes of the patients, had taken a great step towards the prevention of these scourges. Pneumonia, smallpox, and all these things would be stopped right at the beginning, because the doctor would be in attendance at the first."—*The Medical Officer*.

TOBACCO SMOKE

It seems to be now pretty well established that tobacco smoke has germicidal properties, possibly due to the pyridin it contains. This has been shown to be a powerful germicide. It is said in particular to have a rapidly destroying effect upon one germ, the comma bacillus. Pyridin is official in the French Pharmacopeia and is used in such conditions as asthma, emphysema, and angina pectoris, as an inhalation. It is also used in combination with peppermint in diphtheria. Experiments have also been made upon the bacillus of pneumonia which it is said to destroy. Excessive smoking, however, will produce constitutional weakening, a condition favoring most infections.

A NEW MEDICAL DEPARTURE

The apparent failure or surrender of the British Medical Association to the Lloyd George Insurance scheme has resulted in a cleaving process in the ranks of solid medicine in Great Britain. One result is the organization and creation of new bodies in different parts of the Kingdom. In one place—Reading—the news is that several medical men have formed themselves into a joint stock company to provide medical attendance, advice and drugs to residents of Reading who shall patronize this new joint stock medical association. This is, certainly, a startling innovation in the medical world, and demonstrates the growing tendency to commercialism in a profession which is being eaten up by charity. But what can the medical profession expect from the state which licenses them and then permits all sorts of quacks and patent medicine vendors who choose to exploit the people?