

THE ENGLISH REVIEW

highly esteemed as a consultant, is often sent for in difficult cases by Continental physicians, and returns to England with a few pounds of various " Dangerous Drugs " safely bestowed and sells them discreetly at enormous prices to his exclusive clientèle of " fast " or " ultra-smart " people about town.

My colleague from New York was a thousand times right to insist that the whole question is one of moral education. And what does the D.D. Act actually do? It sets at naught the moral education which no self-respecting physician or even pharmacist can have failed to acquire during his training in science. The Legislature deliberately determines to distrust the very people who are legally responsible for the physical well-being of the nation, and puts them under the thumb of the police, as if they were potential criminals. It makes a diploma waste paper. It drives the patient into the hands of the quack and the peddler of drugs.

Nobody in England—or America either for that matter—seems to have the remotest idea of the enormity of public ignorance. Compulsory education has made every noodle the peer of the greatest knowers and thinkers—in his own estimation. The really educated classes have lost their prestige. The public imagines itself entitled to pronounce with authority on questions which the experts hold most debateable. Yet instead of " education " having levelled the community, knowledge has advanced so rapidly in so many directions that the specialist has been forced to specialise still further. The gap between (say) the Professor of Organic Chemistry and the yokel is vastly greater than it was in 1872. But the specialist is distrusted more and more, even in England. In America he is not only distrusted, but hated. There is an epidemic of witch-finding, one is tempted to say. If democracy is to mean that intellectual superiority is a police offence, there seems no reason for not adopting the Bolshevik theories at once. And there is certainly no difficulty in understanding why democracies have in the past invariably led to the extinction of the nations which adopted them. The whole essence of Evolution is to let the best man win: yet our recent theory seems to be that the best man, the " sport," is necessarily a danger to society. The English Constitution is based upon