

## ERRONEOUS IDEAS.

EDITOR DOMINION MEDICAL MONTHLY :

SIR,—Women are sometimes credited with being illogical, but no one would venture to deny that, as a class, they are intelligent, truthful, honest and brave.

The old lady writing in the last issue of the *Ontario Medical Journal*, under the nom-de-plume, "An Elector," has displayed all the weaknesses of her sex and none of the virtues. The letter throughout is strongly flavoured with the coarse scoldings of the mongers who trade at the market not far distant from London bridge, and the venom it contains would do credit to Jack-the-Ripper. No man, much less a woman, with a spark of fairness in his or her composition, would stab an opponent in the back, and then, like an assassin, slink in concealment behind a fictitious cognomen.

Dr. McLaughlin is an able practitioner, is well versed in all the questions of the day, and is thoroughly in touch with the profession in which he takes a lively interest. True, he was appointed to the registrarship of one of the two offices in Durham, but this appointment did not by any means involve his retirement from the profession, nor interfere with his right to represent his division in the Council if he were the choice of the electorate, neither is the amount received from this office (being the smallest but one in the Province) sufficient to warrant his retirement if he so desired. An elector need not to have gone outside the Council for a precedent or a subject on whom he could vent his spleen. Dr. Day, registrar of West Hastings (and, by the way, his office has not yet been investigated), the member whose right to a seat at the Board has never been questioned and whose acts have been honoured by his associates, with the title of "Chief Justice of the Medical Council of Ontario," by special or Divine right, occupies the same

position that a similar appointment in another county renders Dr. McLaughlin ineligible to fill. "Permit me to say right here," to the Old Lady, "Inconsistency thou art a jewel." The doctor is accused of seeking the position of candidate and the question is asked the electorate whether they consider Dr. McLaughlin a proper person to represent them in the Council. The best and most crushing reply to the above is that given by the electorate to whom the question is asked. Some months ago, a number of influential medical men in this division waited on the doctor and requested him to become a candidate. He refused on the ground that he had been surfeited with public life. A requisition was immediately circulated, asking him to reconsider his reply and pledging support. The requisition was signed by every medical man in this town, where Dr. McLaughlin resides and is best known; by every medical man in Durham but one, to whom the requisition was not presented; and by over two-thirds of the electors resident in the remainder of the division, the whole division not having been canvassed. These men know Dr. McLaughlin well, and are aware of the position he occupies as registrar, and these are the men capable of judging "whether he is a proper person to represent them in the Council," or whether there are any grounds for the vile-insinuation of "An Elector," regarding the affairs of the office under his control. "An Elector" wants to know why the holders of university diplomas or certificates prior to 1870 were entitled to registration under section 24 of the Ontario Medical Act. If these diplomas and certificates involved vested rights, there would have been no necessity to secure an Act of Parliament to compel the holders to register them before they could practise medicine. All the rights that the universities in Ontario possess or ever possessed are vested in their charters,