

Correspondence.

The Editors do not hold themselves in any way responsible for the views expressed by correspondents.

LODGE PRACTICE.

To the Editor of ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—After a long and generous apathy the physicians of Sarnia and Point Edward have decided to protest against that injustice known as "Lodge Practice."

The following is their unanimous decision :

"We, the undersigned members of the medical profession of the town of Sarnia, do hereby agree that we will not in future make any examination for any life insurance company or benefit society for a fee of less than two dollars, and we further agree that, after our present contracts cease, we will not accept any appointment as physician to any society requiring attendance for its members to be paid for by salary or per capita rate ; always provided each registered practitioner residing in Sarnia will attach his signature to this agreement."

Following up the request in the May issue of the *Canadian Practitioner* for suggestions, I beg to propose that a committee appointed by the Ontario Medical Association or the Medical Council confer with a representative delegation from the benefit societies regarding a remedy, for surely no society actuated by benevolence and concord can desire to force a measure so repugnant upon a profession which has never been backward in charitable actions and which has accepted contract practice from generous rather than righteous motives.

FRED. H. S. AMES.

Secretary, pro tem.

ERRONEOUS IDEAS.

To the Editor of ONTARIO MEDICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,—I have been much amused by a letter appearing in the *Dominion Medical Monthly*, signed J. W. McLaughlin. This gentleman, who is a Government employé, drawing a fat salary as Registrar of the County of Durham (and by the way one of the County Registry offices that has not had its affairs investigated as yet) is now offering himself as a candidate for the Medical

Council of Ontario—it might be well to ask the medical electorate whether they consider Dr. McLaughlin a proper person to represent them : I do not, for these reasons :

1. Having accepted the position of Registrar of Durham he at once annihilates his connection with the profession, or, in other words, ceases to be a medical practitioner and ceases to depend upon his profession for his daily bread as we have to do—and, therefore, I say the Doctor has, by taking this public office, ceased to be in touch with the profession and not interested in its welfare.

2. His letter, above alluded to, evidences such gross ignorance of the facts that of itself it should be enough to forever bar him entering the Medical Council as a representative. As to vested rights of the universities and colleges, the Doctor claims they never had any. Will he be good enough to explain how it is then that by Section 24 of the Ontario Medical Act, provision is made for any and all holders of a university diploma or certificate, when the said diploma or certificate had been received prior to July, 1870, that on proving their identities they must be registered—showing the diplomas and certificates mentioned carried licensing power.

Again, the Province of Quebec to-day is in the same position as to these matters as Ontario was prior to the "Ontario Medical Act." They, at the present time, are trying to get a "Quebec Medical Act" similar to the "Ontario Act," and the Legislature of Quebec refused by one vote to give them this Act last year owing to the resistance offered by the different universities and institutions, who would not permit the right of their diploma or certificate of carrying licensing power to be taken away. And what has been the result ? The Quebec Act now provides for a professional examination before the Examining Board of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Quebec, for the license to practice, and also provides that the holders of diplomas from any of the universities or colleges in Quebec shall be entitled to registration in Quebec and to become licensed in that way if they so desire, and therefore this shows conclusively that the college in Quebec would not give up the vested rights—which the bodies in Ontario did give up—so much for this question, and I may say that it is to be hoped that