

Editorials.

THE CALL.

To every young man sent forth under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church, the question of the congregational call is a serious one. He naturally shrinks from entering the lists as a probationer, dreading an experience which seems to involve many uncertainties, and which, under some circumstances, may cause him to feel a tinge of the sense of self-degradation. Every good system is liable to abuses, and to the sensitive and untried individual, these loom up very prominently. When one asks how a candidate obtains a hearing in a congregation, he is told that in some sections the securing of this privilege is well nigh impossible save to graduates of certain colleges; that in most cases there is need of friends and influence; that, indeed, the practices known in politics as "wire-pulling" are not entirely absent from church organizations. Next there must follow the ordeal of his first appearance before his judges. Some of them, he is well aware, will examine him point by point (as is customary in judging a prize animal), in person, dress and manner; while, at the same time, he is conscious that the dearest child of his mind and heart is being coolly dissected and weighed by all the experienced "sermon-tasters" in the community. Even should he successfully pass these two stages, there are still dangers ahead. He may be unable to satisfy the anticipations which his trial effort has aroused, and then the critics of the congregation, far from laying the blame upon their own poor judgment in the choice, are liable to turn against him because he has failed to fulfil their expectations, because, forsooth, he is not a perfect man.

That unhappy influences are weakening the bonds that should exist between minister and people, is made evident