

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Queen's Counsel.

IN England the creation of Queen's Counsel proceeds in a manner very different to that to which we are accustomed. In Canada every barrister covets the title, while in England there are but few juniors who can afford the assumption of the honor. Etiquette requires that a Q.C. should in all cases be provided with a junior; and the effect of this is, that while a barrister, as a junior, may command a steady supply of single briefs, his talents may not be sufficient to secure the leading place in cases where two counsel are to be employed. While a junior he may take a brief and attend to the whole case. If he become a Q.C. he cannot hold the same brief unless the client will pay for a junior.

In this way it comes about that a stuff gownsman considers very carefully his hold upon his briefs before he applies to the Lord Chancellor for a patent of precedence. Not until he is confident of his position at the bar (or until he desires to leave practice) does he make his application, and without an application the patent is not conferred. The appointments being, therefore, very largely the outcome of merit, are extremely limited. It is probable that there are more Queen's Counsel in Canada to-day than in all England. After a very long delay in new creations the present Lord Chancellor has issued patents to what is spoken of as "a large number" of barristers. The "large number" being ten!

In referring to these appointments the *Times* (Eng.) says:—"Thus the new Lord Chancellor has, a few days after coming into office, done what Lord Selborne declined for months to do. About a year ago most of the new Queen's Counsel applied to be allowed to change stuff for silk. Their request was not granted. They were given to understand that the state of legal business did not require the