

## Queen's University Journal

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## Editorial.

### Church Attendance of Students.

THE Journal publishes in the present issue a letter dealing with the attendance of students at city churches during the college term. The statement is made that upwards of forty-five per cent. of the students do not attend with any regularity the church services of the city. The opinion is expressed, further, in the letter if such a habit is followed at the formative period of university life it may lead to a permanent attitude of indifference to church and a failure to enter actively into its affairs. In continuing the discussion of the matter the writer considers possible explanations of lax attendance at church stating that "these all narrow themselves down to a criticism, more or less hostile, of the church as the students find it." In this connection the opinion is expressed that blame, in a large measure, rests on the churches. It is acknowledged that the duties of city ministers are already burdensome, that in some instances it is not considered expedient to bid for student attendance, that in others the church has not at its disposal machinery for attention to a group of adherents changing in personnel from year to year. But notwithstanding the difficulties to be met in bringing students within the life of city churches, our correspondent urges the importance to church and students of the accomplishment of such an aim. As for a solution of the difficulty he suggests the possibility of an undenominational chapel service at the University, but on the whole does not regard this as the best means of providing for the religious life of the students.

The letter thus presents an interesting problem and one to which the attention of serious men should be directed. The cause of the non-attendance of many students regularly at church service is a matter of speculation perhaps and it is doubtful if university men should require church organization recast or enlarged to harmonize with their wishes. The whole question, however, is one that city churches, the University authorities and the students should consider very carefully.