

education), Isham Randolph, Chief Engineer, Samuel M. Dickson, law department, and Mr. Adams, civil engineer.

We wish we could, before leaving the south branch of Chicago River, present to our readers a picture with odoriferous accompaniment of a spot which brought to mind some of the scenes of Dickens—the haunts and some of the avocations of the Rogue Riderhoods, Hexams, Quilps and Boffins, modernized and transformed to suit this rapid city. Amidst refuse dumps, which wait the discriminating industry of the “dustman,” stands a wooden domicile with two or three outhouses. On the Stygian stream (about one-third sewage and two-thirds water) are moored some row-boats; near by, an inscription, made of whitish stones set in a greenish bank, proclaims this to be “Our Happy Home.” We must leave the optimist and the sanitarian to decide between them as to the desirability and suitability of such a label.

W. O.

MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS.

We have received a copy of the *Echo*, of Essex County, which contains a very sensible editorial on the subject of “Medical Health Officers.” It will be remembered that recently there was an outbreak of small-pox in North Essex. It is said that if the first case which was detected had been promptly isolated the disease would not have spread. It happened unfortunately that disastrous results ensued on account of the time occupied by the various local health officers in consulting as to what should be done. On account of this delay the disease became prevalent in a goodly portion of the county. The *Echo* thinks that if there had been a competent County Medical Officer, with power to act promptly, he could have prevented the spread of the disease.

It is also thought by many that one good officer for a county would do his work more thoroughly and fearlessly than a number of local officers, because the latter frequently dislike to interfere with certain menaces to public health through a dread of offending certain individuals or corporations. In the recent small-pox outbreak in Essex it was evident that the ordinary physicians had no desire to look after those afflicted with