

EDITORIAL NOTES.

DISGUSTING REPORTS sometimes come to us from the semi-civilized East, which tell us of the foulness of the water the people there drink, as from the bathing tanks, for example, in which the cholera bacillus breeds in abundance, but who would have supposed that in Ontario, with its "boasted civilization" and its Provincial board, and seven hundred local boards, of health, any of the people could drink such water as that drank by the people of Bellefountaine, a village in Caledon township, as reported by Dr. Algie, given on another page of this JOURNAL. Nearly the whole village drank from small ponds made by damming a stream which flowed through the village, and which Dr. Algie found passed within five feet of a "barn yard full of manure," near an "occasional privy, under the floor of a general blacksmith shop," and near a "well-manured potatoe patch," from which it "received not only the manure soakage, but an occasional spicing of Paris-green" [which perhaps acted the part of a bacillicide]: geese had been "allowed free access" to the stream, and the doctor found "two pigs wallowing" in it, a cow standing in and drinking from it, and the "ditch at the roadside" draining into it. Water taken from the lower pond was "simply poisonous," loaded with organic matter, and in "less than twenty-four hours had an offensive smell." It need hardly be said that "the village suffered from a severe epidemic of typhoid fever." Alas! beautifully, but very inappropriately, named, Bellefountaine; was there no one to look after your health interests.

MUCH THE SAME it is in the county of Kent. Dr. Samson, of Rondeau, says a teacher there is dangerously ill with typhoid fever, there was "no water supply for the school," no good wells in the neighborhood, and "oftentimes" the children had to "go to half a dozen houses to secure a pail of very impure water." In another school section, the doctor continues, in which there was diphtheria, the water at the school was "absolutely unfit for human use"; pupils "were drinking from a ditch, which after all contained much better water than the well." In yet another section, with diphtheria in a "number of houses," the water "was loaded with organic matter and unfit for use." Dr. Samson did not report what the pupils in these

schools of our "boasted 'school system'" were being taught;—probably drawing, music, and numerous other "fine arts." Besides diphtheria, scarlet and typhoid fevers had been reported in the locality, the last named "assuming a very serious form." No one will wonder.

A CONTRAST is presented in the following from Dr. Bruce Smith, from the township of McKillop: In the erection of new school-houses in the township every care has been taken by the trustees to provide healthy and cheerful school rooms with ventilation sufficient to provide an abundance of pure air for each pupil. To build up a healthy nation too much attention cannot be paid to the physical well-being of those who are now receiving their intellectual equipment for life's duties in the future. School-room headaches will soon become a thing of the past if the class-rooms are kept properly ventilated. I have to commend the action of our board in appointing different members to visit the several schools of the township and ascertain that the premises were in a thoroughly sanitary condition, and that the water supply was in every case pure and uncontaminated. Some "outside" influence is required to bring all municipalities up to a like condition.

WINDSOR affords an example of another sort, which cannot be very well defined until it be shown whether or not Ontario health laws can be enforced; or so it appears. In April last the secretary of the provincial board of health reported that the Walkerville sewer was emptying probably from three to four millions of gallons of sewage "giving off the characteristic smell of cow manure" every day into the river about half a mile above the intake of the Windsor water supply pipe, and that the brown stream of sewage "was visible for two thirds" of the half mile, in its flow towards the pipe. It is surprising that the enlightened people of that enterprising town could tolerate such a state of matters for a single week. We have known injunctions in Chancery obtained for staying less objectionable and deadly nuisances. Yet there is one person there, who writes editorials for an evening Windsor paper, who contends virtually for some unaccountable reason or object, that the water is good, better indeed.