

THE COUNTY POOR-HOUSE.

Some Things of Interest You Will See In
a Visit to This Place.

Of course, every one in Champaign is aware of the fact that Champaign county has a poor-farm, where old men and women, those who are helpless and sick, and paupers can go and be well taken care of; but it is very doubtful whether ten out of every one hundred persons in the city have ever made a visit to this institution, and it is thought that a short article in regard to the place will be of interest to many readers. The poor-farm is located about three-quarters of a mile east of the court house in Urbana, and is composed of one hundred and twenty acres of as fine farm land as can be found in Illinois. The farm is equipped about the same as any well-regulated farm, the products of which are used in feeding the inmates of the poor-house. This house is not the hideous, dirty and lonesome place which you hear about when anyone has occasion to speak of a poor-house, but is a good, comfortable and clean place, which from the road resembles a well-to-do farmer's home. The main building is of brick, and is surrounded by snow-white fences and smaller houses. The reporter visited the place recently at about dinner time, thinking he would get a chance to see the noon meal served, and see how it compared with the tin-pan-and-no-table-cloth story which he had always heard in connection with poor-houses. He was first taken into the women's dining-room, which, as far as he could tell, looked like the dining-room in anyone's house of moderate circumstances. The table was not an oil-cloth, neither were the tin pans and coffee tins to be seen. The table was covered with a red cloth, and was set with a glass spoon-holder, two glass syrup cans, a sugar bowl, large dish of crackers, a plate of white bread, pepper and salt. The bill of fare for dinner consisted of bread and butter, coffee, pork and beans, potatoes, turnips, onions and several other dishes. The men's dining-room, which joins the women's, was arranged the same, and the same kind of a dinner was served. The food is all cooked by steam; the big wood-stove which used to be used having been thrown out. The steam cooker is much more convenient. There is a good-sized boiler in the wash house, and pipes run from there to the kitchen, where they are turned into large galvanized iron cans of beans, potatoes, etc., which can be cooked in a very short time. Besides the dining-rooms on the first floor there are two or three large sitting-rooms where good fires are kept and the old men go to have talks. The second story is composed entirely of sleeping rooms, which in most cases are furnished with an iron bedstead and one chair. The floors are white and clean, and the bedding is in good condition. There are thirty-six of these rooms. From

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here you are taken to what they term the
mad-house, which is separate from the
main building. It is a long, narrow, one-
story building, having a long hall in the
center and cells on each side. This de-
partment is superintended by Louis
Sauders, and has at present six inmates,
two or three of whom have been there as
long as anyone can remember, and they
don't have enough sense to eat, when food
is handed to them. Wm. Roughton is the
new superintendent, who has been in
charge since last March. Mr. Roughton
is a thorough gentleman, and is just the
man the board of supervisors should have.
He was for ten years turnkey of the county
jail, and thoroughly understands the care
of the people he has to deal with. He is
making great improvements around the
house and farm, improvements which
should have been made years ago. He
has an assistant Charles Arledge, who
looks after the farm.
