

THE WATER RESOURCES OF THE COASTAL PLAIN OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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CHAPTER I.

HISTORICAL REVIEW.

Previous to the investigations furnishing the materials for this report very little systematic study had been made of the water resources of the Coastal Plain of North Carolina, or of the conditions governing their availability for domestic and manufacturing purposes. The volume of the literature on the subject is therefore small, and with a few exceptions consists of brief references to or descriptions of springs, wells, municipal water supplies, etc. On the following pages will be found a brief review of the more important contributions, and in the bibliography which follows references to the less important contributions are included.

Denison Olmsted¹ prophesied in 1825 that if means could be found to penetrate the deposits of the Coastal Plain to depths of 100 feet or more, much finer water could be obtained than that furnished by shallow wells.

The first record of an attempt to obtain water for domestic purposes by deep boring is that of a well at Edenton described by Elisha Mitchell² in 1827. Apparently no water was obtained.

The underground circulation in the limestones (Eocene) underlying Jones, Duplin, and Onslow counties, the occurrence of sinks in this limestone, and the issuance of springs from its cavities are briefly described by Prof. W. C. Kerr³ in his report of 1875.

¹"Report on the Geology of North Carolina, conducted under the direction of the Board of Agriculture," Part II, November, 1825.

Papers on agricultural subjects and Professor Olmsted's Report on the Geology of North Carolina, published by order of the Board of Agriculture, Part II, pp. 87-141, 8 vo., Raleigh, 1827.

²"Report on the Geology of North Carolina, conducted under the direction of the Board of Agriculture," Part III, November, 1827, 27 pp.

³"Report of the Geological Survey of North Carolina." Vol. 1, Raleigh, 1875, 325+120 pp.