

carry large amounts of very soft and excellent water. As a rule, the inhabitants obtain supplies from this source by means of comparatively shallow, dug, bored, or driven wells, and employ for lifting the water to the surface either buckets or suction or force pumps. Springs occur at many places along the hill slopes where the underlying less pervious beds outcrop at the surface, and, where conveniently located, are utilized.

As stated above, the water furnished by the Lafayette formation is almost universally of excellent quality, except where subject to nearby surface contamination. Where it is possible to guard against such contamination, no more satisfactory water need be desired for the various domestic purposes.

The Pleistocene deposits, which consist of sandy loams, clays as a rule more or less sandy, sands and gravels, form a comparatively thin covering over practically all the remaining Coastal Plain area. (See geologic map, Plate XIII, in pocket.) The thickness, as a rule, amounts to from 10 to 30 feet. In exceptional cases, however, it reaches as much as 40 feet, and in a few places along the coast to as much as 70 feet or more, as shown by borings.

On the basis of the manner of origin the deposits have been differentiated into five formations, namely, in the order of their age, beginning with the oldest, the Coharie, Sunderland, Wicomico, Chowan, and Pamlico formations. The Sunderland and Wicomico formations correspond respectively to the formations of the same name in Virginia and Maryland, and the Chowan and Pamlico formations together correspond to the Talbot formation of those States. The genesis, areal extent, topographic features, lithologic character, etc., of these formations have been treated at some length in Part I of this report. Since the water conditions presented by all of them are similar in most essential respects, it is not necessary to treat them separately. The basal sandy and gravelly portions of these deposits are almost everywhere water-bearing. The water is as a rule very soft. In the flat, poorly drained, swampy tracts which form a large part of the area of the coastward half of the Coastal Plain the water from this source contains much organic matter due to the presence of decaying vegetation on the surface through which it must percolate in its downward passage. Elsewhere the water is, as a rule, of excellent quality, both from a sanitary and mineralogical standpoint, except where subjected to polluting surface influences such as are common in the vicinity of dwellings. The water is obtained by means of dug, driven, or bored wells, located, as a rule, in close proximity to the dwellings which they are intended to supply. Because of the flat character of much of the area in question, and because of the shallowness of the wells, which as a rule range from 10