

to 30 feet in depth, it is next to impossible in the great majority of cases to guard with any degree of certainty against the contaminating effects of decaying organic accumulations such as cesspools, discarded food remnants, slops, etc. This fact is becoming more generally recognized among the inhabitants of the region in question, and one finds almost everywhere among those obtaining water from this source a desire to substitute for it supplies from deeper lying horizons.

Springs occur along the river bluffs, the valley slopes, and the scarps separating the several Pleistocene terraces; they derive their supplies from the basal sandy and gravelly portions of the Pleistocene beds. Where not subject to surface pollution or to the effects of decaying vegetation, the spring waters are of satisfactory quality. Where mineral springs occur the waters are, as a rule, derived from outcrops of older, underlying strata. A comparatively small percentage of the springs are utilized, owing to the inconvenience of their location with respect to the location of dwellings.

WATER RESOURCES OF THE COASTAL PLAIN, BY COUNTIES.

BEAUFORT COUNTY.

Topography.—The surface of Beaufort County is made up of parts of three Pleistocene terrace plains. The lowest or Pamlico plain, which scarcely exceeds 20 feet in elevation above the sea, covers about the eastern one-third of the county and extends as a bordering terrace along either side of Pamlico River to and beyond the western county limit. The next higher or Chowan plain covers the greater part of the remainder of the area, with elevations of from 30 to 50 feet. Portions of the surface of both the Pamlico and Chowan terraces consist of broad stretches of swamp land. Very limited areas in the western part of the county form parts of the third or Wicomico terrace plain at elevations of about 60 feet. The several plains described have been but slightly dissected by stream erosion.

Geology.—Little is known of the detailed geology of this county. The western part of the area is underlain by sands, clays, and shell marls of Miocene age, which are believed to dip eastward and pass beneath similar beds of Pleistocene age, or possibly in part of Pliocene age. Pleistocene sands, clays, and marls underlie much of the area to the east. In the western part of the county the Miocene beds are underlain by Eocene limestones belonging to the Trent formation, similar to those at New Bern. These are penetrated in wells at Washington at from 30 to 150 feet below the surface. A surficial covering of Pleistocene terrace deposits belonging to the Wicomico, Chowan, and Pam-