

One assay of a water from this county is given in Table 1, pp. 496, 497, assay No. 74. This is discussed on page 487.

Artesian Prospects.—The prospects for obtaining abundant supplies of fairly potable water in this county from deep sources are good.

DARE COUNTY.

Topography.—The whole of this county, including the banks, is low, level, and swampy, nowhere, excepting in the case of wind-blown sand dunes, exceeding 8 or 10 feet above sea level. The surface forms a part of the Pamlico terrace plain, which is the lowest of the Pleistocene terraces. The chain of long linear islands called "The Banks," varying in width from a few rods to more than 2 miles, curve around the Atlantic boundary of the county. At many places along the banks immense sand dunes have been formed by the wind. These dunes reach their maximum development in the Kill Devil hills near Colington, where they attain a height of nearly 100 feet. They are bare of vegetation in most places and are constantly shifting. The sand blown from the banks is gradually shallowing Pamlico Sound for several miles off shore.

Geology.—A thin surficial covering of fine sands and sandy loams of the Pamlico formation is spread over the surface of the county. Beneath this covering there are believed to be shell marl beds of Pleistocene age having an unknown thickness, which, however, probably do not exceed 30 or 40 feet. Beneath these there come sands, clays, and shell marl beds of Pliocene age, and beneath these again, probably at a depth of 80 to 100 feet and with an unknown thickness, are similar beds of Miocene age. Roanoke Island is probably of the same age geologically as the mainland of Dare County, the Pamlico terrace materials covering its surface. Although the banks are now covered in many places by immense sand dunes of recent origin, they were probably outlined in their present position during the deposition of the beds of the Pamlico terrace.

Water Resources.—No deep wells have been drilled in this county. On Durant's Island, in Albemarle Sound, a well was driven 80 feet deep which yielded an abundant supply of water, but which was of an unsatisfactory quality. At Stumpy Point cisterns are much used, being preferred to the driven wells. The latter range from 12 to 36 feet in depth and yield a water reported to be salty. At Juniper the open wells are only 2 to 4 feet deep and water from the nearby swamps is much used. This swamp water has a dark reddish-brown color and is locally termed "juniper water." In the northern part of the mainland open and driven wells 7 to 10 feet deep are reported to furnish good water. At Manteo, the county-seat, and in the southern part of Roanoke