DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLIES FOR THE FARM

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BY

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PREFACE.

THE water-supply problems confronting the farmer are of vital importance. Unlike his city brother, who is provided with ample and carefully safeguarded water piped to his very sink or bath, the farmer is obliged to seek his own supply, and is compelled not only to install his own water-system but is forced to personally guard and protect it from contamination. In fact, he must be his own engineer of construction, maintenance and sanitation.

The questions he has to meet are far from simple, and, with nothing but tradition to guide him, it is inevitable that mistakes will be frequent and that farm water supplies will often be a menace to health if not the cause of actual disease and death.

It is the object of this little book to explain to the agriculturist something of both the advantages and dangers of the common sources of domestic water supplies, including surface waters, springs and underground waters, and to point out to him the danger signals and indicate the steps to be taken to safeguard his supplies.

The surface waters and springs are treated with comparative brevity, for their problems are relatively simple and familiar to the farmer. The occurrence and movements of the ground waters, on the other hand, are but hazily understood by the average farmer. It is for this reason, as well as because of the fact that such waters must necessarily be the most frequent source of farm supplies, that the ground waters and their recovery through wells are considered at such length. In a book aimed to assist the farmer the treatment must be as simple and free from technicalities as possible, and the engineer will necessarily miss in its pages

the precise and technical treatment that would be more suited to his requirements.

No originality is claimed for the greater part of the subject matter, most of which is common knowledge and has previously appeared in publications of the writer and others in the reports of the U. S. Geological Survey, especially in "Underground waters for Farm Use" (Water-supply Paper 255) from which the greater part of the illustrations and considerable portions of the text have been extracted. "Well Drilling Methods" (Water-supply Paper 257), by Isaiah Bowman, has also been drawn upon for many of the statements concerning drilling methods.

The writer ventures to hope that the discussion of the ground waters, which is based on an experience of some years in charge of the underground water investigations in the eastern United States for the U. S. Geological Survey and on field examinations in more than twenty-five different states, will serve to remove some of the obscurity and mystery which surrounds them in the minds of many agriculturalists, and will lead to a clearer understanding of the principles involved in securing and protecting farm water supplies.

MYRON L. FULLER.

157 SPRING ST.,
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