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Plugging Abandoned Water Wells

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Iowa Geological Survey

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PLUGGING ABANDONED WATER WELLS

H. GARLAND HERSHEY

Underground waters are one of the most valuable mineral resources of Iowa and each year they are being more widely used. Since the supply of potable waters is limited, their conservation is a matter for careful consideration. Every effort should be made to guard against contamination and loss.

One of the chief causes of mineralogical and bacteriological contamination and loss of desirable water is underground circulation from one water-bearing horizon to another in old or abandoned wells.

Plugging abandoned wells, provided it is properly done, is the best method known to prevent underground circulation. The advantages of cement, mud-laden fluids and other plugging media are discussed. The various methods of emplacing the plugging media are outlined.

IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
IOWA CITY, IOWA.

SOME DEFORMATIONS OF SOUTHWESTERN IOWA

E. H. WENBERG

Possibilities of oil production have recently revived interest in the structure of southwestern Iowa. Along the Missouri River is a series of low major synclines and of two major anticlines trending east-northeast. The largest, the Brownville syncline, extends from southeastern Nebraska into southwestern Iowa. On the north it is bounded by the Jones Point deformation, consisting of the asymmetric Redfield anticline and the Union fault. Both the Jones Point deformation and the Union fault were originally described in Nebraska, but are now traced across the river into Iowa. Possibly other minor faults occur in the south flank of the arch. North of the Redfield anticline the strata dip down into the shallow Bartlett syncline and then rise abruptly in the La Platte deformation opposite La Platte, Nebraska. The deformation seems to consist of an asymmetric anticline or of a normal fault similar in nature to the Jones Point deformation.

Attempts to connect the Jones Point deformation with anticlines **or faults in Iowa near Red Oak, Milford, Redfield, and Ames,**