A, Minnesota River near Carver, Minn.

B, Black River near Galesville, Wis.

C, Mississippi River at McGregor, Iowa

FIGURE 1.—GAGING-STATION STRUCTURES

At most gaging stations in the northern part of the United States and at some in the mountainous regions of other parts the stage-discharge relation is affected by ice during the winter, and it becomes impossible to compute the discharge in the usual manner. Discharge for periods of ice effect is computed on the basis of the gage-height record and occasional winter discharge measurements, consideration being given to the available information on temperature and precipitation, notes by gage observers and engineers, and comparable records of discharge for other stations in the same or nearby basins. If the stage-discharge relation is affected by ice, this information is given in a note to the table. No mention is made of occasional days of ice effect if the degree of accuracy of daily records is not changed.

The data herein presented generally comprise a description of the station, a skeleton rating table, and a table showing the daily discharge and monthly and yearly discharge and runoff of the stream. Records are published for the water year which begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. A calendar for the water year 1956 is shown on page IV for the purpose of finding the day of the week for any date.

The description of the station gives the location, drainage area, records available, type and history of gages, average discharge, extremes of discharge, general remarks, and notations of revisions of the previously published record. The location of the gaging station and the drainage area are obtained from the most accurate maps available. River mileage, given under "Location" for some stations, is that determined and used by the Corps of Engineers unless otherwise noted. Under "Records available" are given the periods for which there are published records generally equivalent to those at the present site. Under "Gage" are given the type of gage currently in use and the datum of the present gage above mean sea level, and a condensed history of the types, locations, and datums of previous gages used during the period of records available. Under "Average discharge" is given the average discharge for the number of years indicated. It is not given for stations having fewer than five complete years of record or for stations where changes in water development during the period of record cause the figure to have little significance. Under "Extremes" are given the maximum discharge and gage height; the minimum discharge if there is little or no regulation; the minimum daily discharge if there is extensive regulation (also the minimum discharge if useful); and the minimum gage height (unless it is of no importance). In the first paragraph, the data given are for the complete current water year unless otherwise specified. In the second paragraph, the data given are for the periods of record within the calendar year dates in the heading (not necessarily those for the complete years indicated by the heading dates). Reliable information concerning major floods that have occurred outside the period of record are given in the third or last paragraph under "Extremes." Unless otherwise qualified, the maximum discharge corresponds to the crest stage obtained by use of a water-stage recorder, a crest-stage indicator, or a nonrecording gage read at the time of the crest. If the maximum gage height did not occur at the same time as the maximum discharge, it is given separately. Information pertaining to the accuracy of the records and conditions which affect the natural flow at the gaging station is given under "Remarks."

Previously published records of some stations have been found to be in error on the basis of data or information later obtained. Revisions of such records are usually published along with the current records in one of the annual reports. In order to make it easier to find such revised records, a paragraph headed "Revisions (water years)" has been

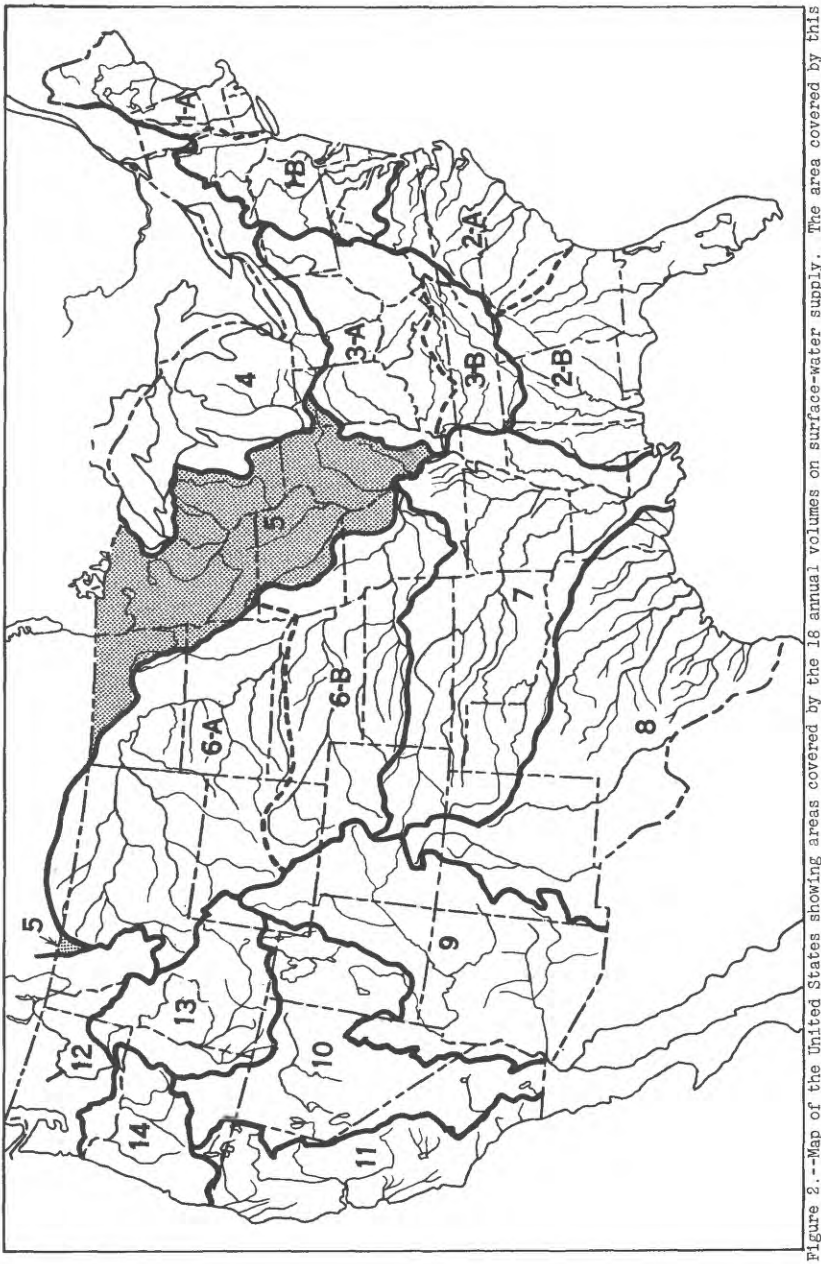

Figure 2.--Map of the United States showing areas covered by the 18 annual volumes on surface-water supply. The area covered by this report is shaded.

State reports containing compilations of records of discharge

State	Period	Reports	Issued by
Illinois.....	1908-11	Water resources of Illinois.....	Rivers and Lakes Commission.
Do.....	1900-1934	Streamflow data of Illinois.....	Division of Waterways.
Indiana.....	1923-27	Pub. 72, Surface water supply of Indiana...	Department of Conservation.
Do.....	1927-30	Pub. 112, Surface water supply of Indiana..	Do.
Iowa.....	1873-1932	Streamflow records of Iowa.....	State Planning Board.
Do.....	1873-1940	Water-Supply Bull. 1, Summaries of yearly and flood flow relating to Iowa Streams.	Iowa Geological Survey.
Do.....	1941-42	Water-Supply Bull. 2, Surface water resources of Iowa.	Do.
Do.....	1943-50	Water-Supply Bull. 3, Surface water resources of Iowa.	Do.
Do.....	1951-55	Water-Supply Bull. 5, Surface water resources of Iowa.	Do.
Minnesota....	1909-12	Water-resources investigations of Minnesota	State Drainage Commission.
Do.....	1883-1949	Bull. 5, Surface water supplies of the Mesabi Iron Range.	Department of Conservation, Division of Waters.
Missouri.....	1857-1926	Vol. 20, 2d series, Water Resources of Missouri.	Missouri Bureau of Geology and Mines.
Do.....	1927-39	Vol. 26, 2d series, Surface waters of Missouri.	Missouri Geological Survey and Water Resources.
Do.....	1940-49	Vol. 34, 2d series, Surface waters of Missouri.	Do.
Montana.....	1889-1911	5th biennial report.....	Office of the State Engineer
Do.....	1881-1938	Special Rept. 10, vols. 1-4, Water resources of Montana.	Montana Agricultural Experiment Station.
North Dakota.	1919-21	Report to Governor of North Dakota on flood control.	State engineer.
Do.....	1882-1925	Surface water supply of North Dakota (with 12th biennial report).	Do.
Do.....	1882-1938	Surface water in North Dakota.....	State Planning Board.
Do.....	1882-1944	Supplement B, 4th biennial report.....	State Water Conservation Commission.
Wisconsin....	1888-1914	1st report of Railroad Commission of Wisconsin to Legislature on water powers.	Railroad Commission of Wisconsin.
Do.....	1914-23	2d report of Railroad Commission of Wisconsin to Legislature on water powers.	Do.

Note.--In addition to records contained in reports listed above, the following States have issued annual or biennial reports in which are contained records of discharge: Indiana, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

The reports listed in the foregoing tables contain the customary records of discharge collected during the systematic operation of gaging stations. Detailed information on the stage and discharge of many streams during major floods has been included in special reports on these floods published by the Geological Survey or other agencies. The more recent of these special reports also contain other pertinent hydrologic information and analyses and compilations of data relating to earlier notable floods. The following is a list of these reports:

Report	Issued by
WSP 162: Destructive flood in the United States in 1905.	U. S. Geological Survey.
WSP 771: Floods in the United States, magnitude and frequency.	Do.
WSP 838: Floods of Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, January-February, 1937.	Do.
WSP 847: Maximum discharges at stream-measurement stations through September 1938.	Do.
WSP 1137-B: Floods of 1950 in the Red River of the North and Winnipeg River basins.	Do.
WSP 1137-G: Floods of 1950 in the upper Mississippi River and Lake Superior basins in Minnesota.	Do.
WSP 1227-D: Summary of floods in the United States during 1951.	Do.
WSP 1260-C: Floods of 1952 in the upper Mississippi and Red River of the North basins.	Do.
WSP 1320-A: Floods of June 1953 in northwestern Iowa.	Do.
Cir. 370: Floods in Missouri, magnitude and frequency.	Do.
Bull. 1: Iowa floods, magnitude and frequency.	Iowa Highway Research Board.
Bull. 1: Magnitude and frequency of floods in Minnesota.	Minnesota Division of Waters.
Bull. 7: The 1912 flood on the lower Mississippi.	Illinois Rivers and Lakes Commission.
The floods of May 1943 in Illinois.	Illinois Division of Waterways.
The storm of July 8, 1951, in north-central Illinois.	Illinois State Water Survey Division.
The storm of July 18-19, 1952, Rockford, Ill., and vicinity.	Do.
Floods in Illinois, magnitude and frequency.	Illinois Division of Waterways.
Unit Hydrographs in Illinois.	Do.

RECORDS OF DISCHARGE COLLECTED BY AGENCIES OTHER THAN THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The table below contains a list of gaging stations for the area covered by this report, at which records of discharge were collected during the water year October 1955 to September 1956 by agencies other than the Geological Survey. The records of these stations are not contained in publications of the Geological Survey, nor have they been published elsewhere.

Records of discharge collected by agencies other than the Geological Survey

Stream	Location	Period	Collected by
Beaver Creek	Eldora, Iowa	1950-56	Corps of Engineers.
Blue Earth River	Near Rapidan, Minn., at Rapidan hydroelectric plant.	1911-56	Northern States Power Co.
Cannon River	Near Cannon Falls, Minn., at Cannon Falls hydroelectric plant.	1921-56	Do.
Clear Creek	Coralville, Iowa	1954-56	Corps of Engineers.
Honey Creek	Bangor, Iowa	1950-56	Do.
Iowa River	Lone Tree, Iowa	1950-56	Do.
Iowa River, South Fork	New Providence, Iowa	1950-56	Do.
Minerva Creek	Clemons, Iowa	1950-56	Do.
Minnesota River	Near Granite Falls, Minn., at Minnesota Falls hydroelectric plant.	1928-56	Northern States Power Co.
Mississippi River	Near Anoka, Minn., at Coon Rapids hydroelectric plant.	1918-56	Do.
Do	Minneapolis, Minn., at lower-dam hydroelectric plant.	1900-1956	Do.
Do	St. Cloud, Minn., at St. Cloud hydroelectric plant.	1924-56	Do.
Do	St. Paul, Minn., at Twin City Lock and Dam.	1925-56	Ford Motor Co.
Old Man Creek	Iowa City, Iowa	1951-56	Corps of Engineers.
Richland Creek	Haven, Iowa	1950-56	Do.
Timber Creek	Marshalltown, Iowa	1950-56	Do.
Walnut Creek	Hartwick, Iowa	1950-56	Do.

Note.--The agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture has collected records of runoff from five areas in Illinois, two in Missouri, and nine in Wisconsin. Four areas in Illinois, comprising less than 300 acres each, are near Edwardsville (records begin in 1938), and one, comprising 670 acres, is near Alhambra (records begin in 1952). Two areas in Missouri, comprising less than 200 acres, is near McCredie (records begin in 1941). One area in Wisconsin, comprising 350 acres, is near Colby (records begin in 1948); four areas, comprising less than 4 acres, is near Fennimore (records begin in 1938); and four areas, comprising less than 4 acres, is near LaCrosse (records begin in 1932). These records are in the files of Agricultural Research Service.

HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

During most of water year 1956 streamflow was near median in much of the area covered by this report. The most notable exception was in Iowa, where flow was deficient in ten months of the year. Monthly mean discharge of Iowa River at Marshalltown, Iowa, was record-low for the month in December and July. In Illinois moderate floods occurred during October and May. In Wisconsin major floods occurred on several rivers during April (the flood on Trempealeau River was the highest since at least 1914). On July 18 the peak discharge of Ralston Creek at Iowa City, Iowa, was the highest of record. Flow of Roseau River at Ross, Minn., was record-high for September. For three key gaging stations in the area covered by this report, a comparison of the monthly and yearly mean discharge during the 1956 water year with the median discharge for the 25-year period 1921-45 is shown in figure 3 on the following page.

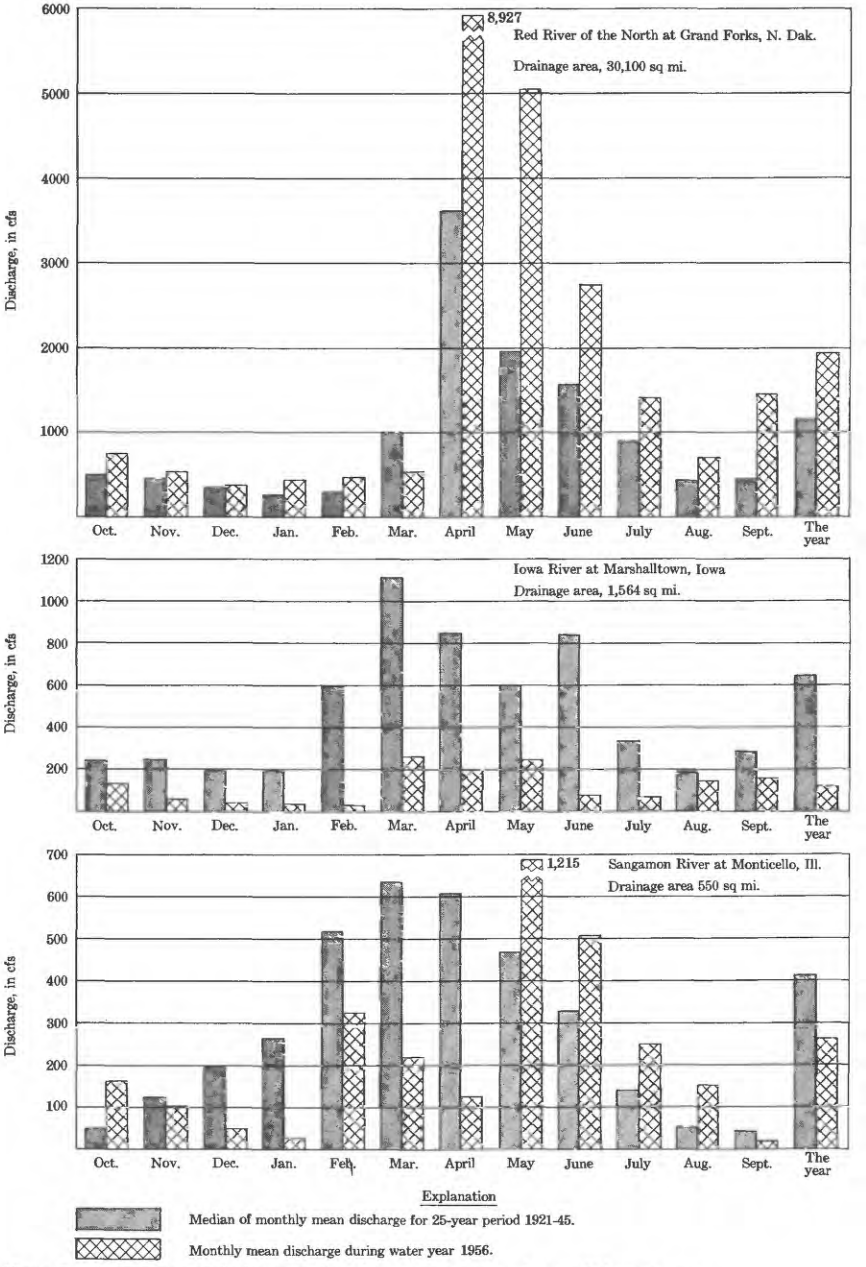

Figure 3. Comparison of discharge at three key gaging stations during 1956 water year with median discharge for 25-year period.