Basement aquifers are of particular importance in tropical and sub-tropical regions both because of their widespread extent and accessibility and because there is often no alternative source of water supply readily available, particularly for rural populations. The present failure rates, variability of yields and maintenance problems of boreholes and wells in basement aquifers point to the need for greater understanding of the hydrogeological principles involved. It is hoped that this book will go some way towards meeting this need and will become essential reading for those involved in the hydrogeology of basement aquifers in tropical and sub-tropical regions.

Although this book concentrates on sub-Saharan Africa, these principles apply equally to Southern Asia, South America and Australia.

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