

BUSH SICKNESS.

PROGRESS OF INVESTIGATION.

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THIS investigation has been carried out steadily and systematically during the year, and a very decided advance has been made in our knowledge of the condition. All the evidence gathered points to the condition being one of malnutrition rather than of disease, properly speaking, and I have therefore adopted the term "bush sickness" in connection with it, instead of "bush disease" as heretofore. Mr. B. C. Aston, F.I.C., Agricultural Chemist, has been closely associated with me throughout, as has also Mr. H. A. Reid, F.R.C.V.S., the latter especially in connection with the pathological side of the work, while Mr. J. Kerrigan, M.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Supervisor, who took up his residence at Rotorua in July last, has since personally supervised the experimental work, giving it close and careful attention. Considerable assistance was also rendered by Mr. R. Alexander, Inspector of Stock for the district, whose knowledge, both of the affected country and of the so-called "disease," has proved of great value. In last year's report I stated that a series of experiments on the lines of applying various soil dressings to selected plots had been commenced. Some of these experiments have been concluded, but others, where good results have been obtained, are still in progress. In view of the evident obscurity and complexity of the problem to be solved, it was realized from the beginning that if a successful ultimate result was to be hoped for the work must be carried out carefully and systematically, even though involving an apparently long period of time. Thus, certain experiments which commenced in January of last year are still in progress, and will in all probability continue for some months to come, the animals concerned in them still remaining in good health—a most satisfactory state of affairs. Mr. Aston has carried out a large mass of further work in the analyses of soils, herbage, water, the urine, blood, internal organs, bones, and other tissues of affected animals, together with comparative analyses of similar material from outside districts. Mr. Kerrigan, being on the spot, has been able to make careful observations, and *post-mortem* examinations of affected animals; while Mr. Reid, at