

fivefinger may establish in abundance, and this is then followed closely by kamahi and totara. On the floor of such an association kamahi may readily re-establish, and here we find also the rewarewa quite at home.

Thus here we have perhaps one of the quaintest secondary forests to be found anywhere in New Zealand (Fig. 17). Fivefinger is the dominant tree, with odd totara and kamahi scattered here and there. In the better lower parts one or two wineberries may be seen, now old and decrepit. The lower story is filled with scrub—thin sapling manuka, scrubby kamahi, snowberry, and odd lancewood—in parts draped with dense masses of club-moss. Here perhaps club-moss is repeating its life-function of millions of years ago, preparing the way, now as then, for the great advance of the higher flowering-plants. As the conditions in this association improve, kamahi, rewarewa, and lancewood establish in greater numbers (Fig. 18), and this number is added to by totara, kohuhu, and tarata; and on the floor tupari may appear. This forest continues its development. The kamahi, rewarewa, fivefinger, tarata, kohuhu, lancewood, &c., grow into small forest-trees, and the underscrub of mingimingi, gaultheria, snowberry, and club-moss perishes. We then have once more the typical forest of the poorer slopes (Fig. 19), which ultimately will give way by degrees to tawa.

At Tahora, in a secondary forest such as this, may be seen the stately rimu setting out in truly graceful beauty to win back for that soil the primary forest that is in fact its heritage.

GENERAL.

From the foregoing it would appear that on the country in question secondary growth baffled the farmer at every turn; but secondary growth of a good character, vigorous and quick-growing, tells rather of possibilities of a country than of impossibilities. It tells of wealth in those soils if only this can be directed into channels useful to the farmer. A systematic study of this country is urgently needed, so that there may be sorted out and trials made of those pasture-species and methods of pasture-management which are seen to be giving the desired result.

(To be continued.)

A Twenty-one-year-old Ewe.—Mr. M. R. Findlay, Inspector of Stock, Kurow, Otago, sends the following note: "Longevity among our domestic animals is not often brought under notice, unless it is the age of some faithful horse which has served a shepherd or family for life, or perhaps a pony which has carried all the junior members of a household to school, while the ripe old age of some of our faithful canine friends is also at times commented upon. It is only on rare occasions that old age among sheep calls for particular attention. A ewe, the property of Mr. James Menzie, of Rosehill, Hakataramea, should just about be given pride of place in this respect, for, as the saying goes, she is 'old enough to vote.' This animal was born in January, 1902, from a Merino ewe by a Border Leicester ram, and was raised as a pet. She has reared seventeen lambs, but for the past three seasons has not been put to the ram, her owner wishing to see how long he can keep her alive. Unlike most pet sheep, she was never a fencer, a fact which no doubt saved her from the butcher's hook years ago."