



FIG. 2.—Generalised pattern of average annual rainfall for the period 1921–1950.

Average annual rainfall values (Fig. 2) are adopted from a provisional rainfall map (1961) of Meteorological Service, except for Te Hoe, which was calculated by the author. These values and the isohyetal pattern indicate markedly higher rainfalls on the southern face of the divide. And the tendency is strong for eastern areas to be considerably moister than areas farther west. Even if considerable latitude is allowed, and it must be, in the location of some of the isohyets, there is sufficient justification for the broad pattern presented.

Taken overall, areas north of the divide are warmer than their southerly counterparts. This difference is marked and appears to be largely due, first, to the more effective reception of solar heat north of the divide and, secondly, to the greater exposure to cool southerly winds south of the divide.

Frosts, frequently severe, occur during autumn, winter and spring. Snow-falls at upper levels average about 10 to 15 days per annum; the fall varying greatly from year to year. Only infrequently does snow fall below around 2,000ft.

SECTION 2—THE BROAD FOREST PATTERN

The accompanying map (Fig. 3) though excluding a north-eastern and a southern portion of the Huiarau Range environs, presents a picture which, by area, is fairly well balanced. Discounting lake areas the map embraces 440 square miles which are divided by the Huiarau Divide into a northern area of 221 square miles and a southern area of 219 square miles. Three major forest zones have been recognised and broadly delineated; the podocarp, the red beech and the silver beech zones. Within the podocarp zone sizeable clearings exist, but for this introductory bird's-eye panorama of the forests the area of cleared country (about 28 square miles) is incorporated in the total podocarp zone area.