

where those trees are of small size, to obtain a "site" average; a "species" average must in turn represent all major "sites." It is natural that more thought is being given to accelerated methods of test to cope with the large amount of material now considered necessary to establish correct values.

A considerable amount of time was devoted to structural tests and the resultant stress grades, to testing of plywood, insulating board, and "sandwich" materials, and to laminated construction. In all these fields there is an increasing number of applications calling for strength data. For the re-assembled products methods of test are in the developmental stages; Madison is again able to give the British countries the benefit of its initial studies. Stress grades are a very vexed question, owing to the amount of material which has to be tested to cover the strength variations imposed by defects in all their multiple forms in a range of timber sizes. Those grades too call for changed sawing methods and a high degree of skill in grading.

J. S. REID.

REGENERATION IN INDIGENOUS MONTANE FOREST AFTER FIRE

A fire in silver beech forest on the Marchant Ridge (southern end of the Tararua Range) in January, 1938, completely destroyed the forest at an altitude from 3,400 feet down to about 2,800 feet. Re-population of the burnt area 11 years later is surprising slow, for there are abundant winds to carry seed from the living forest. Mosses and ferns are the principal ground cover, except close to the edges of the burn where young silver beech (*Nothofagus menziesii*) trees are numerous. Towards the centre of the burn a few isolated silver beech, kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*) and *Olearia lacunosa* seedlings (presumably from wind-carried seed) were seen, but *Coprosma*, *Fuchsia* and broadleaf (*Griselinia littoralis*) from bird-carried seeds are much more numerous. Incidentally a few small broadleaf trees survived the fire; towards the lower fringe of the burn one or two silver beech retained living branches some 6 to 10 feet above ground. It is possible that both instances of survival were due to their being between the crown and ground fires.

J. S. REID.

REGENERATION IN INDIGENOUS FOREST AFTER BLOWDOWN.

The very severe storm which devastated some areas of forest in the Tararua Ranges 13 years ago has been commented upon in the Journal.* A lesser storm 2 years ago brought a further small amount of blowdown in the devastated areas.

In the montane beech forest association (about 3,000 feet) on the Field Track ridge from Otaki Forks to the southern Tararua tops,

*"An Exceptional Gale" and "The Recovery of an Indigenous Forest after Wind-throw," both by A. P. Thomson, *N.Z. Journal of Forestry*, Vol. 4, No. 1, 1936.—Ed.