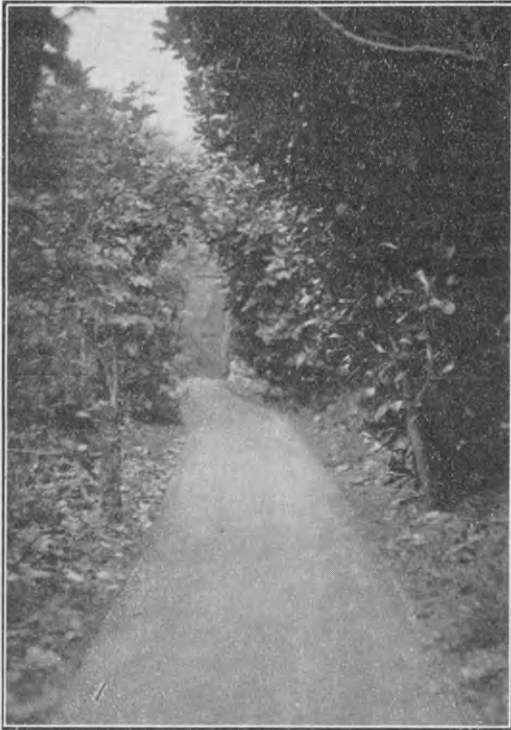


young trees had the help of natural phosphates in the sand. Artificial fertilisers were tried, but potash alone gave any desirable results. Any organic manure proved beneficial. Cow manure gave a notable fillip to karaka.

Among the enemies to be conquered were wood-lice (commonly known as slaters), which soon changed many of the seedlings into bare sticks. Accordingly a permit was obtained for the keeping of three wekas which were assured of safe



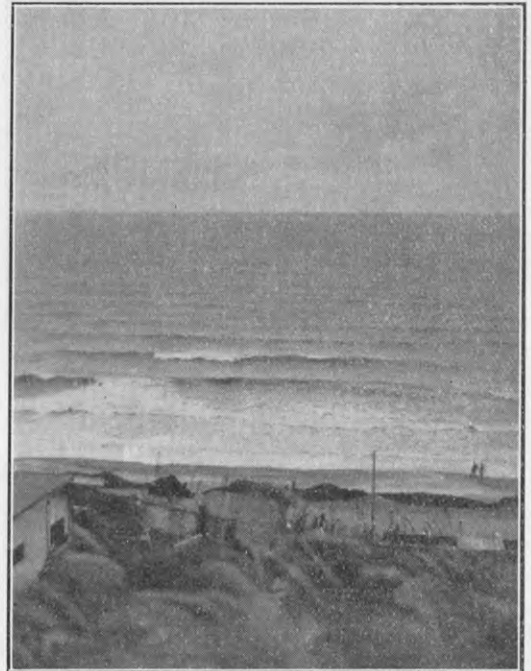
A delightful aisle in the little "sanctuary".

sanctuary by a strong wire-netting fence which enclosed the section. Within a week of the birds' arrival all plants began to improve in health. Slaters, snails and other pests suffered very heavy casualties, and the wekas waxed fat.

A general height of 15 ft. to 16 ft. was attained by the plantation in ten years. Any species which outgrew the others was cut back by heavy winds to the average height of the whole stand—the height at which the trees were mutually protective.

The "natives" (about 70 species) that have been strongly established include poroporo, wharangi, taupata, makomako (wineberry), kotukutuku (commonly called "konini," which is the name of the sweet berry), koromiko, ngutukaka (kaka-beak), pukanui, taraire, karamu, rata, karaka, karo, ngaio, whau, taupata, ake-ake, pohutukawa, ti-toki, tarata, ti (cabbage-tree), mamaku, (a tree-fern), puriri, mahoe, kawakawa, manuka, whauwhi (lacebark) and patete (five-finger).

Captain Sanderson's place "Te Kohanga" ("The Nest") is now used as an experimental station. Various forms of bird-baths are tried out; the bathing conditions preferred by birds are carefully observed, experiments are made in the selection of winter food and methods of feeding and in the trapping of rats, weasels and other enemies without catching birds.



View showing clear scope for winds from the sea.