

Physically the situation is much more protected than the zones outside of it, and, lying at a still lower level, it has a moister soil. The soil, however, is still of sand, though it contains some humus from the decaying vegetation and must derive some mineral matter by diffusion and drainage from the upland. Very likely also the sand is shallower here than farther out (*fig. 2*), and hence some influence of the minerals of the underlying soil may be felt, while in places an appreciable enriching of the soil must result from the decay of



FIG. 14.—Typical closed woods, chiefly of white spruce, but with some deciduous trees in the background; the closed forest carpet shows in the glade of the left foreground.

the bodies of the walrus, formerly slain here in great numbers, as manifest by their semi-fossil bones.⁸ These additional sources of mineral nutrients, however, by no means furnish a supply sufficient for the proper growth of the woods, for in every feature they exhibit marked depauperation as compared with the same species on the neighboring upland.

In relation to the preceding zone, the closed woods consist essen-

⁸ Described more fully in a note in Bull. Nat. Hist. Soc. N. B. No. 24:462. 1906.