

called **colonies**. Colonies of most plants are transient: after a short time other plants gain a foothold amongst them, and an intermingled society is the outcome. Marked exceptions to this are grass colonies and forest colonies, in which one kind of plant may hold its own for years and centuries.

In a large newly cleared area, plants usually *first establish themselves in dense colonies*. Note the great patches



FIG. 9.—A MID-REGION SOCIETY.

of nettles, jewel-weeds, smart-weeds, clot-burs, fire-weeds in recently cleared but neglected swales, also the fire-weeds in recently burned areas, the rank weeds in the neglected garden, and the ragweeds and May-weeds along the recently worked highway. The competition amongst themselves and with their neighbors finally breaks up the colonies, and a *mixed and intermingled flora is generally the result*.

In many parts of the world the *general tendency of neglected areas is to run into forest*. All plants rush for the