more than he could use himself or dispose of to others. In this case he might find that he could cover more ground with less effort if he were not to wait until his trees had reached considerable size, but were to thin them out at an age when a single blow of the ax or heavy knife would cut the saplings down. In this case, of course, nothing of value would be obtained from the thinning, and the farmer's sole object would be to benefit the trees which remained.

The Maxwell plots illustrate some such condition as this. These plots are one-eighth of an acre in size, and three of them were laid out in a thicket of mixed shortleaf and loblolly pines on an old field. The saplings had come in irregularly, and varied in age from four to ten years, and in height from two to fifteen feet. In some places seedlings were still coming up in small openings among the older trees, and it was only here and there that the trees had been growing side by side long enough to be seriously crowded. Unfortunately, these three plots were not precisely alike to begin with, so that the results from the two degrees of thinning which were tried out cannot be properly judged for another five years. Trees, like people, vary widely both as individuals and in the number which live in a given space, and one of the difficulties encountered in experimenting with them is this natural variation. If two stands do not resemble each other very closely at the beginning of the experiment it is difficult