

10th November 1933.

A.E. Watkins Esq.,
School of Agriculture,
Cambridge.

Dear Watkins,

I should like an opportunity of seeing your point a bit more clearly. The fact is that you, like Professor McBride, seem to know quite clearly what the word "vigour" means, whereas I don't. I can understand what is meant by growth rate, which, when increased will lead either to a larger size as in domestic poultry, or to earlier maturity as in domestic swine. Both of these changes would, I imagine have been non-adaptive or rather dead-adaptive in the wild species. Nevertheless many Botanists on the other hand use the word quite happily for a variety of other characteristics, such as resistance to various diseases or pugnacity, all of which I imagine are to some extent advantageous, but by their advantage a certain price, and so are not of increasing advantage, in unlimited degrees and in all circumstances.

As to high-breeds: some grow well and thrive, and these may be kept for use and are available for study, others will scarcely live, or not at all,

and so do not loom so large in literature.
It would be a most important point to establish
though a very difficult one, your belief that
the wider the cross the greater the growth
rate in horticultural conditions, but it really
isn't necessary to establish this proposition
before discussing its evolutionary significance.

Yours sincerely,