12 Egerton Place
S.W.3

[June 1921] JHB

CRIPPS'S CORNER,
FOREST ROW,
SUSSEX.

Dear Fisher

One word more about the Hagedoorn Effect. If a character is due to a single factor, I think I see how it acts, and I imagine it would act more rapidly than if due to many factors. But let a character be due to a number of presence and absence factors or allelomorphs, and let the presences be Equal in number to the absences, then, as far as I see, the Hagedoorn Effect is not operative. In this hypothetical

Case a useless Character would become no more uniform. Moreover if, for example, the presence Allelomorphs was always beneficial, and if few in numbers, natural Selection would be for long tending to Equalize the presence and absence allelomorphs and to slow down the Hagedoorn effect - to zero. It would increase again after the Equality in numbers point had been passed. This may be all utter bosh, so take no notice of it, if you should think it indicates softening of the brain!

Yours sincerely
C Darwin

It seems equally true of any two allelomorphs A & B.

My argument is that the submarine-forms at each end will have an equal excess of A's and B's, and their elimination will upset the balance.