demic, or cutaneous, spasmodic or contagious, but is a growing or accumulative disease, produced by adverse treatment at particular periods of the year, and terminating at other and indefinite periods, the progress and termination depending entirely upon the intensity of cause which produced it, and the character and condition of the animal at the time. A most fearful feature of the disease, is, that there are no external manifestations until it is near its termination; and at this period the hog generally dies suddenly, and that in defiance of all the remedies which may be used. Doubtless very many hogs have been affected with this disease, but so slightly that it was not externally manifested, and in all such cases, when sows are thus effected and pregnant, the disease is transmitted to the offspring, and although the mother may survive it, the pigs will either die or so inherit the malady that it will be again transmitted in a more malignant form. In this way it may become hereditary, and continually multiply until a whole herd may be swept off. There seems to be no want of evidence that the disease is not epidemic or contagious, for although not being able to say in what the pestilential condition of the atmosphere must consist, in order to produce epidemic disease, yet, in this disease, we can generally measure its range and fix its limits, and find the most conclusive evidence that it is not only circumscribed, but in most cases, and under most circumstances, it is stationary. If the disease was epidemic or contagious, and was produced by any morbid condition of the atmosphere, it would be impossible for it to be so circumscribed or confined to particular localities at particular periods of the year; and, too, while these localities possess no more of the natural elements calculated to induce epidemics than others which, at the same time might be free of the disease. It has lately been pronounced by some very eminent physicians as a blood disease. This, no doubt, is true, and is one grand step towards a proper solution. But while the blood in this as well as in many other diseases, is greatly involved, yet the blood as we know is the immediate agent of nutrition by which the system, in all its parts, is sustained and developed. The blood itself, with all its power of nutrition, is alone derived from the food. Hence these facts greatly aid us in tracing the disease to one of its prime sources, the food, coupled with unnatural and adverse treatment.

But as we make no pretention as a "Hog Esculapius," and not wishing further to tax the incredulity of those who differ from us, we will leave the subject, and will content ourselves by continuing our own course of breeding and management, which has, up to the present time, kept our herd free from such diseases.

Lexington, Ky. P. B. BRYANT.

Communications.

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture:

PARRSBOROUGH, CUMBERL. ND CO.,
9th July, 1872.

Sir,—We received here to-day the Nova Scotia *Journal of Agriculture* for the month of July, 1872. It contains the usual reports from most of the Counties of the Province as to the prospects of this year's crops. These reports, although in some instances brief, must be interesting to all your readers having the prosperity of the Province at heart, which depends so much on the goodness of our crops; they are the basis of a great deal of the business now done by us. For instance, without the hay and oats we raise ourselves, we could not carry on so successfully as we do our extensive ship-building and lumbering operations. Teams would be fed at a fearful cost, logging and getting out ship-timber in the winter, if we had to purchase all the hay and oats they require from adjoining Provinces. For several years past, in every country district, the price of hay has been from $8.00 to $12.00 per net ton of 2,000 lbs. in the autumn, often rising to $16.00 and $20.00 in the spring. Formerly, say forty years ago, it was sold in our country villages at $4.00 to $6.00 per gross ton of 2,240 lbs. It is not that it is less plentiful, (the extension of marshes and uplands, and the reclaiming of low lands and meadows, must have caused a vast increase in the quantity); but that there are more purchasers, more neat stock, and more business done requiring team work. Grain has not risen in price in the same ratio. Flour and meal imported from Ontario and the United States are so plentiful and cheap that they keep down the price of grain. It is, therefore, now a greater object than formerly for owners of land to grow hay, whether for sale or to save the purchasing of it.

There is always much anxiety about the potato crop. It has so long been damaged by *the blight*. This disease has caused yearly large failures of the crop since 1845, and affected the price favorable to farmers in markets at home and abroad. It is a valuable and favourite esculent; and, notwithstanding repeated failures in cultivating it, we generally try again, and always have crop enough to encourage us to do so. We never have now the old-fashioned crops of two hundred and three hundred bushels per acre.

I have the same remarks to make, as regards the weather in *seed time*, that appeared in the report of your correspondents. It continued to rain incessantly, and was cold for about four weeks, up to the 17th ult. Occasionally there would be a sunny day; but these sunny days did not dry the ground sufficiently to enable us everywhere to go on with the inevitable work of ploughing, horrowing, sowing, planting, and carting out manure. In many places in Parrsborough, the farms are so dry that the owners can improve each fine day in ploughing and planting, and never fail to do so—some of them with their teams working on rainy days as well. Consequently much of the grain and potatoes were got in here soon enough, though not quite so early as usual. We all feared that the seed so planted and sown would rot in the ground, the wet weather having continued so long after it was put in. I am glad to report that this has not been the case. The potatoes everywhere on these light and gravelly soils never came up better, and the grain fields are all looking well. There may be some diminution in the quantities put in, or intended to have been put in; but, if so, it will be made up by turnips, buckwheat, and the late sowing of oats for fodder. Turnips and buckwheat do well put in late in June and early in July; and even potatoes planted on old ground here last year, so late as the 20th July, succeeded well.

The hay crop, at this date, promises to be good on the marshes and upland fields. In the Half-way River and West Brook meadows, it is said the crop will be light, having been either winter-killed or killed by too much wetness in the spring, or perhaps by both.

Since the 17th ult., the weather has been favourable with timely showers, and it has been duly improved by every family having crops to raise. Almost all the spring work is now over, and the hoeing of potatoes is going on; yet, there are eleven days that the late crops I have mentioned may be put in to advantage.

Fruit trees were gorgeous in every orchard here this spring, and we hope to have a correspondingly good crop of fruit. Strawberries are brought to market now in small quantities—a few pottles each day. I think the crop will not be large, although there was a great show of blossoms. They may have been touched on the fields inland by the usual June frost.

Although long kept in doubt and suspense from the continued cold and wet weather, we have had our *seed time* as promised; then, let us trust in Providence that, in due time, we shall have our *harvest* also as promised.

T. D. DICKSON.

June 21st, 1872.

DEAR SIR,—This has been an unusually wet and cold spring, at least a month later than last year. The oldest inhabitant has no recollection of such a late spring. Many farmers had not a seed in the ground before the 18th of June, and the potatoes cannot be planted before the first week of July. The usual quantity