

case on this date. Meteorologists say the coming winter will bring lots of snow. This would be a benefit for the wells of this place. Many of them (except our own one) got quite dry in this dry summer. The city of Dresden has the plan to build a large aqueduct here, and by their experiments they drove the water of all wells in the lower village away. Our own well is a strong mountain-well and we had water enough all summer. The dryness was really dreadful. The leaves on trees and shrubs were dry like roasted paper. The autumnal shades of woods have been wonderful this autumn, yellow, orange and red, but the latter shade, occurring in the cherries, is not as deep as in your maples.

Hoosterwitz nr. Dresden Nov. 29.  
1903.

Dear Mr. Deane,

It is late, replying after three quarters of a year and it would be inexcusable if it was a mere neglect. However it is not pleasant to write of hard times and I thought I had better wait until I can report better news as I am able at present and so you will kindly pardon my long silence. Since spring my mother has been very seriously ill, in such a degree, she never was before. The doctors had been quite helpless. The grace of fate has turned all to the best; she has recovered, and we can look forward to the coming winter without sorrow. It was a very

sorrowful time, this year, and so I am most happy to have my dear mother well again. We hope Mrs. Deane and you have been very well all year and have had a pleasant summer. I got your postal card of January and I was so very much pleased to receive the Journal, Rhodora containing your very interesting note on *Cephalanthus*. I am very much obliged to you for it. I saw lots of this bush in S. Virginia in the moist banks of swamps. There in my garden it ~~does~~ not thrive well, the soil is probably too dry. I observed a similar persistence and longevity with seeds. *Euphea lanceolata* was grown in our garden 15 years ago and came again in several summers

by dissemination. When the border was deeply dug up and filled with fresh soil *Euphea* disappeared for many years, until some years ago the border was dug up again; probably some grains had got deep into the soil and kept fresh and when they came to surface after 6 years they grew freely. Seeds of *Ricinus communis minor* collected in Jamaica 1892 and preserved in a screen, gave healthy plants 8 years later, in 1900. That is real mummy-wheat. Our late autumn is very mild, fog and rain every day, much snow in the mountains, but no freezing. Today I saw a tall *Ricinus* yet in bloom in our garden, this is a very rare



Birds have nestled and sung  
as usual, but I could not  
tell you <sup>any</sup> new observations. I  
had not many spells this year  
except to watch the sparrows  
nestling on the windows of my  
workroom and how they peep  
curiously and saucily at my  
work as if they longed to catch  
my 'secrets'.

Please give kindest regards  
to Mrs. Deane from my mother  
and me, and best wishes to  
Mrs. Deane's mother and father,  
and accept for yourself our  
kindest wishes and regards.

Very sincerely yours.

Rud. Blaschka



Blaschka, Rudolf. 1903. "Blaschka, Rudolf Nov. 29, 1903." *Rudolf Blaschka letters to Walter Deane*

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