

The University of Chicago

Department of Botany

The Botanical Gazette

December 31, 1900.

My dear Deane:-

I was hoping that during the Christmas week I should find time to write you a letter with my own hand, but have had to abandon that hope and resort now to a dictated letter, which I am sure you will forgive, since I can make it so much more satisfactory in content even than a written letter.

My little stamp box doubtless reached you somewhat behind time, as my Christmas presents usually do! It was impossible to me to get down town to get it until the day before Christmas. You know I invariably put off my shopping to the last minute; while, as your book evidenced, you had been forehanded as usual. Now ~~that~~ one has to stamp checks as well as letters, a pocket stamp box is not inconvenient.

I have not had opportunity yet to read the attractive book you sent, but I am sure from looking it over two or three times that it will prove as delightful as it is attractive.

The week has been a busy one here because we have had the second meeting of the Naturalists of the central states. About 70 or 75 people have been here, and in addition to the hours spent in the sessions we have been trying to entertain our friends by both social and university attentions. A considerable number of botanists were among the attendants. Ramaley from Colorado, and Jeffrey from Toronto represented the extremes, I believe. There were about twenty from abroad, and these with our own staff and advanced students made up a very respectable ^{botanical} section.

My work has gone along in the usual grooves this year. In the spring I wrote a couple of articles for Bailey's Cyclopedia, the ones on

flower and fertilization. This autumn he has asked me to write the article on Teratology, and I am now getting ready for that. I am also interested in the revision of the International Cyclopedia and have been doing some preliminary work on that. The whole subject of botany is in charge of the department here and we are dividing it up among our men. Of course I shall have the physiological topics. Just as soon as possible I am going to get out a physiological text, something after the scope of J.R.Green's book, ~~—~~ just issued. It will traverse rather different lines, however. This represents about the extent of outside work which I have been able to do this year.

On the first of July I was appointed one of the deans and have charge of the granting of advanced standing to students who come from other colleges, and the valuation of the work of graduate students who are candidates for a second degree. Being rather new to this administrative work, it has taken a good deal of time. It gives me, however, some additional compensation and, ex officio, ~~—~~ more prominence in the various faculties.

We spent our summer at Madison as usual, that is to say the rest of the family did. Mrs. Barnes and her sister, with the children, were there from about the middle of June. Between the first of July and middle of August, I went up on Thursday nights and spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday with them. After the middle of August, I was there continuously until we returned late in September. We find our summer place as delightful as usual and it is always a pleasure to get back to Madison among old friends, of which we have many there.

Our recent Christmas gift from Mr. Rockefeller will redound ^{advantage of the} decidedly to the botanical department, as it provides for the erection of a press building, which will rid us of our tenants-at-will, the Press Division, who occupy one of our best laboratories and pretty much all of the basement for storage. As the new funds also provide for the improvement of the grounds, it will enable us to finish our pond in the court

3 Walter Deane.

and to plant ^{it} ~~the court~~ more extensively than we have yet done. Other buildings, ten in number, which are already provided for, and which are about to be begun, will remove from before our front door a low rough barrack ^{like brick building} which has been temporarily occupied by the gymnasium and library. The new students' club house will also relieve us of two temporary tenants, students' clubs, which occupy two of the good rooms on my fourth floor. So we grow gradually and I think as rapidly as sound development permits.

I was delighted to get your letter this morning and to hear how you are coming on. I only wish you had told me more about yourself and Mrs. Deane.

You have doubtless noticed that our changed address means new quarters. In April we moved from the three story house which we occupied on Monroe Avenue to the sixth floor of an apartment building where we have nine good rooms and two bath rooms. Mrs. Barnes's sister had been with us for the past two years, but when we returned to town in the autumn, she took apartments of her own a few blocks away, so that we are now alone. We like our new quarters very much and find the change a most agreeable one. The other quarters were a constant source of irritation; while the present ones are a constant source of satisfaction.

Are you not coming out to Chicago to see your brother some of these days? I wish you could. We should like to share in such a visit. Remember that you have a cordial welcome waiting you whenever you can come this way. Mrs. Barnes joins me in warmest regards both to Mrs. Deane and yourself. Both of the wives seem to have so much better health now that I think we may both congratulate ourselves. I hope we can increase this correspondence to a semi-annual one! Let us start out the new century aright.

As ever, Sincerely yours,

W. R. Barnes



Barnes, Charles Reid. 1900. "Barnes, Charles Reid Dec. 31, 1900." *Charles Reid Barnes letters to Walter Deane* –.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/150930>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/327223>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

IMLS

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.