

The  
**Botanical Gazette.**

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS,

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My dear Deane:--

The little specimen that you send is the fructification of one of the Myxomycetes or slime moulds. In their vegetative condition they are naked masses of protoplasm which crawl about over and through rotting logs, damp soil, tan-bark, etc. by amoeboid movements. Sometimes these plasmodia (as the veg. stage is called) are as broad as one's 2 hands. One common species is canary yellow ~~starch paste~~ and about the consistency of starch paste. When about to fruit they crawl up grass, twigs, etc., lose a great part of their moisture and differentiate into the hard (relatively) skeletal parts which remain in this specimen, called the capillitium, and the spores. This one is a Stemonitis, probably fusca. It is common as slime moulds go, but few people see any of them, even the commonest.

I have just returned from an afternoon tea that Miss Newell gave to the botany-summer-schoolers, 5--7. Miss N. asked the Ganongs, Mr. Bergen and us to stay to supper after the rest went and we had a charming evening because a congenial crowd.

Mary had another return of her neuralgia this month but was able to write a long letter the next day. Formerly they used her up for several days. In spite of these backsets she has such strong assurances from outsiders as well as physicians and nurses that she is improving that we can hardly doubt it; indeed she recognizes it clearly. But she wants to get home and it is quite possible that we will go before long. I shall know in a week.----Fernald back, with loads of plants, mosses and other.---Miss Clark takes a week off next---Dr. W., O.K.

*Cordially, as ever, C.R.B.*



Barnes, Charles Reid. 1891. "Barnes, Charles Reid Jul. 24, 1891." *Charles Reid Barnes letters to Walter Deane* –.

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