

The University of Chicago

Department of Botany

The Botanical Gazette

May 23, 1901.

My dear Deane:-

Your note of May 21 is at hand. So far as I am aware there is no possible way of predicting, except by a knowledge of its ancestors, what the color of any flower is likely to be. Certainly no one has discovered anything in seed or spore which enables this to be predicted. With a knowledge of the ancestors we know approximately what to expect, but in any given case there are variations which are entirely inexplicable. However, if Dr. Wesselhoeft proposes to base any inferences regarding animals upon the behavior of bulbs and seeds, you would better warn him that he is comparing structures which are not in the least comparable. Neither seed nor spore represent the sex cells and should he compare them to egg and sperm in animals he would simply be making a comparison which has often been made before, but which at the present day is utterly unjustifiable. I can't conceive how an allegation regarding the development of color in flowers could have much bearing upon the appearance of color in animals!

The color of a flower, by the way, is one of the last things to appear. It ordinarily does not develop until the flower is almost ready to expand from the bud. When we have discovered the physical basis of heredity for structure, we shall be nearer to a knowledge of why color patterns reappear in the progeny.

I am glad to hear from you and to know that you are well and busy. We have all been unusually well this winter and the visits of the doctor have practically ceased. He has hardly been in the house for any of us since the middle of last winter. ⁽¹⁸⁹⁹⁻⁰⁰⁾ Mrs. Barnes had a little cold a week or so ago which shut her up for ten days, largely because she over-used her eyes and was compelled to protect them from the light

and to avoid reading for ~~some~~time.

At present we are in the throes of house cleaning and re-decorating. The house is torn up from end to end. (You observe ^{that} as we now live in a flat I do not say from top to bottom!) Mary would join me in kindest regards to Mrs. Deane and to you did she know I were writing.

Ever yours,

W. R. Barnes

Mr. Walter Deane,

Cambridge, Mass.



Barnes, Charles Reid. 1901. "Barnes, Charles Reid May 23, 1901." *Charles Reid Barnes letters to Walter Deane* –.

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

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/327224>

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>.