Democratic Watchman

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Bellefonte, Pa., June 7, 1907.

SCHILLER WROTE AT NIGHT

The German Poet Worked With Wet Towels on His Head and Strong Coffee at His Elbow-Enderance of Humboldt, Balzac and Voltaire.

"Five hours' sleep is sufficient for men," declared Napoleon; "seven for women, children and fools."

History hardly bears out the great Corsican's dictum, although there have been some notable advocates among the world's great men of the theory generally regarded as "burning the candle at both ends." Men, however, undoubtedly differ fundamentally in regard to the need of sleep as they do in other respects, and, whether great or little, each one must work out from experience a schedule of rest, as he must of diet and exercise. One fact, however, may be predicated of almost all great persons-whatever their habits as regards retiring they have been early risers. During the years of Daniel Webster's greatest congressional activity it was remarked of him that no one ever saw him reading or preparing for his speeches. This was all done according to his own confession, at an hour when other men were still enjoy ing their morning slumber. Webster possessed in a high degree what is known as the "morning temperament," as distinguished from the "night tem perament," and he found consequently that his mind manifested greatest clarity and productivity during the early hours of the day.

Training undoubtedly has much to do with the formation of mental habits, but it is folly, says the New York Herald, to deny the existence of an inborn inclination stronger than train ing or discipline. The German poet Schiller is a luminous example of the "night temperament," and he is pic tured with wet towels around his head and strong coffee at his elbow as he bent over his lamp illumined manuscript. Yet, like all German boys Schiller was trained to early rising, and if he deliberately chose the night for his time of composition it was because of an inner impulse which admitted of no refusal. With the approach of evening the heart quickens its pulsations, and respirations become more rapid, and the whole system suffers an increase of feverish activity; hence we are prepared to find the "night disposition" in the case of nervous and excitable brain workers, notably of poets and writers of fiction. To but few is it given to produce year in and year out a certain fixed daily quota, as in the case of Anthony Trollope, who early set himself to work and with whom the arrival of noon marked the completion

position the great Frenchman was accustomed to stamp upon the floor of his chamber and summon the unfortunate scribe to take down his thoughts. When once under way it was no unusual thing for him to continue working for sixteen hours at a stretch. Goethe despite his habit of early rising was wont to arise in the night to

that of the author, and at any hour of

the day or night when moved to com-

scribble down a poem or song, and Emerson's wife was subject to the danger of being aroused by the philosopher in his search for writing materials. "Only a thought, my dear," he would reassure her as he seized the fleeting inspiration.

During the time when suspicion pointed strongly to Sir Walter Scott as the author of the Waverley novels the closest watchfulness of his guests at Abbotsford failed to detect signs of literary activity on their host's part. the reason being that his pen had always completed its daily labors by the time the amateur detectives had arisen from their beds.

Poetry With a Sting In It.

On one occasion when William Hamilton Hayne was visiting Samuel Minturn Peck at the latter's home in Tuskaloosa the two poets strolled into the woods and paused to rest beneath the shadows of the pines.

"Here are your favorite pines, Hayne," said Peck. "Let's dream a few poems beneath them."

The languid summer day had its ef-ASTORIA fect on them, and they were soon snoring and dreaming away.

But suddenly both awoke and both started down the home road at top speed, shouting as they ran. An army of yellow jackets had discovered them, and, not being partial to poetry, had forcibly and feelingly

resented its intrusion on their domain. Later, at supper, Peck asked: "Did you make a poem, Hayne?"

"No," was the meek reply. "I made a poultice!"

"So did I," said Peck.

Not a Slip of the Tongue.

It is dangerous to pretend to knowl edge one does not possess. A man of little education was once a guest at a dinner, during which a servant stumbled so that a roast tongue fell from the platter he was carrying. It was an embarrassing moment, but the quick witted host saved the day by remarking, "Never mind, gentlemen, it's only a 'lapsus lingua.'" This caused much laughter and applause, and instead of being spoiled the dinner was a great success. The boor, wishing to shine as a wit himself, shortly afterward gave a dinner, to which none of those present at the first dinner were invited. When the guests had been seated a servant entered bearing a beef roast. Just before reaching the table he stumbled and fell. The host, leaning to his feet, astonished the guests by exclaiming, "Never mind, gentlemen, it's only a 'lapsus lingua.' "-Kansas City Times.

The Phantom Fire Ship.

The traditional "fire ship" of the Chaleur bay, New Brunswick, appear ing usually before a storm, has a basis of fact, according to a scientist. It is a hemispherical light, with the flat side toward the water, glowir g sometimes without much change of form, but at other times rising into slender, mov ing columns, in which an excited imagination might recognize the flaming rigging of a ship. The general explanation offered is that this object is a manifestation of St. Elmo's fire, an electrical phenomenon, but the reason for its appearing only on or near the Chaleur bay is not known.

Children In Pliny's Day. It was not a modern American writer who, discussing the children, wrote of them thus: "How many are there who will give place to a man out of respect to his age and dignity? They are shrewd men already and know everything. They are in awe of nobody, but take themselves for their own example." These were the words of Pliny the younger used in one of his famous letters during the first Christian century, but they will strongly apply to much of the young Amer-

ica of today. Castoria.

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Open to Conviction. No rock was ever more firmly fixed than were Mrs. Manser's opinions, but she considered herself of an extremely pliable disposition, with a mind open to conviction on all sides. "It's the strangest thing to me, th way the rest of the family talk as if I were set in my views," she said one day to her nephew William's bride,

with whom she had been laboring on There is no style of work, from the cheapest Dodger" to the fines? the subject of calling cards for more than an hour. "It seems to me you're sort of taking the same tone," she continued, looking sharply at the young that we can not do in the most satisfactory man ner, and at prices consistent with the class of work. Call on tinued, looking sharply at the young There isn't anybody in this world or communicate with this office. that's readier to be convinced she's in the wrong than I am by people who know more than I. All they've got before 'em, ever, is to prove to me that they do know more than I-and I tell you, my dear, there hasn't one of 'em ever been able to in this family!"-

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of his day's task.

Balzac, on the other hand, that Titan of the nineteenth century, was accustomed regularly to arise at midnight and after enveloping himself in his monk's habit to seat himself at his desk and force his weary brain to its task of creation. Carried away by admiration of the "master," Theophile Gautier and a number of other ambitious youths of the day undertook to imitate this peculiarity of the "father of realism," with the result that very soon they were forced to take to their beds in earnest to make up for the hours stolen from slumber. Doctors doubtless would point to the early taking off of Balzac, who died when fiftyone years of age, as proof of the del eterious effects of such a regimen. On the other hand, it may be questionto the privations and financial troubles to the privations and financial troubles lished. In the use of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant of his early years rather than to work Pellets the dose is diminished instead of at ill advised hours. It is as illogical to attribute his early death to the ab-normality of his habits of labor as to attribute the long survival of Voltaire and the explorer and traveler, Alexanand the explorer and traveler, Alexander Humboldt, to a like cause. On one occasion Max Muller, as re-

Got the Autograph. At Carlsbad on one occasion Brahms' physician. Dr. Grunberger, asked the composer for his autograph for a young lady admirer, but Brahms scolded him for making a nuisance of himself and refused to give it. Some weeks later, at his departure from Carlsbad, Brahms handed to the doctor an envelope inscribed, "With the cordial thanks of Johannes Brahms." Noticing a broad grin on the doctor's face, he asked: "What makes you look so cheerful? You don't know yet what the envelope contains." "Nor do I care," retorted the doctor. "The en velope is the main thing. Much obliged for the autograph!"

In the use of ordinary pills the dose must he increased the longer the pill is used. ed whether his exhaustion was not due That means the pill habit is being estab-They are invaluable for the cure of constipation and its myriad consequences.

lated in his autobiography, was returning from an evening entertainment in Berlin with Humboldt, who was then eighty years of age, and the conversation turned upon the latter's "Cosmos." Bitterly the savant complained that he was no longer able to accomplish as much as previously, since he now re-quired four hours' sleep instead of two, as in earlier years. "When I was your age," he remarked to the philologian, "I would simply turn down my lamp and after a nap of two hours would be as fresh as ever."

The sleeping room of Voltaire's secretary at Ferney was directly beneath

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