

A SLEEPLESS POEM

This poem was written by Mr. Z., apostle of sleeplessness, on the tenth day of his sleepless scientific vigil.

While "obscure at times," the attending psychiatrists say it indicates mental integration and integrity. It constitutes, in their opinion, proof that the lack of sleep did not impair Mr. Z's mentality.

Two of the women who assisted in the experiment furnished the inspiration. Here it is:

Functions that hamper and gifts that requite
Must be their nature in women unite.
Reckless compounding of accent with flush
Attacks like a limen, basic in hush
Attacks in the crystal, survives in the light
Recoils and assembles 'twixt mystic and trite.
New fashions go leering, old modesties blare
I comin the springtime, their tortoise shell dare:
Over insistence, and collect what you may,
Evoke pleasures of night to sustain in the day.
Northward the lust and the yearning conspire
Sweet south, how delightful sensed form to attire.

PHYSIOLOGY

Considers Sleep Useless But Proves Himself Wrong

GOING without sleep doesn't seem to be too good an idea and apparently the time spent in sleeping is not such a waste after all.

A young man who was sure that the human race wastes a third of its time in sleep persuaded psychiatrists to let him show how nicely he could get along without sleep. But he seems to have shown the reverse, that he couldn't get along without it after all.

His strange case was reported by Drs. S. E. Katz and Carney Landis of the New York Psychiatric Institute and Hospital to the American Medical Association.

Mr. Z., the healthy, 24-year-old apostle of sleeplessness, went for ten days with only five and a quarter hours' sleep. On the last day he wrote a 12 line poem. His longest nap was an hour and ten minutes. His health was not apparently affected, but the "higher functions of mental life" apparently were, and his disposition seemed to suffer most.

"The general picture was that of a slightly intoxicated individual who has grown irritable, argumentative and occasionally slightly disoriented in time and space," the New York psychiatrists reported, in describing his condition at the end of the test.

In fact, he became so irritable and so convinced that the experimenters were

persecuting him that they decided to end the test, although Mr. Z. was evidently willing to continue it.

The mental changes could not be unqualifiedly attributed to the lack of sleep, the psychiatrists pointed out. They state that the general personality and character of a young man who would undertake such an experiment might reasonably explain the mental disturbances that occurred.

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ENTOMOLOGY

Grasshoppers a Scourge Second Only to Drought

GRASSHOPPERS, which have been a menace second only to the drought itself in the Northwest, may receive a check in the Dakotas and Montana through the providential rains that have recently fallen in that country.

W. R. Walton of the Bureau of Entomology explained to Science Service that the hordes of 'hoppers, which have not yet reached the flying stage in this northern part of their range, have been giving a desperate time to farmers and the crops of federal and state scientists who are in the field against them. Poison bait has been spread several times, but the air has been so dry that the moisture soon dis-

appeared from the bait, so that the insects would not eat it.

The rain, Mr. Walton stated, will give the grasshopper fighters a breathing space, and longer time in which to carry on the battle. By improving moisture conditions, it will also probably keep the poison bait in edible condition longer.

The grasshopper situation in the West is very bad this season, Mr. Walton continued; worse, even, than had been expected. Undeterred by rains or anything else to favor man and injure them, they have been swarming in threatening hordes all down the Great Plains country as far as Texas, and thence through the southwestern states over into California. In the southern areas they are already winged.

It is probable that 1934 will be remembered as a bad grasshopper year, as well as a year of unprecedented drought.

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