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DURATION OF DREAMS.

In Slumberland One May Live Hours in a Few Seconds.

In the course of a discussion at the British Medico-Psychological society, Sir George H. Savage, who has always been a dreamer himself, and no sooner closes his eyes than he passes into dreamland, gave some interesting data upon which he bases the belief that dreams, even of an apparently prolonged character, occupy but the shortest space of time.

"Dreams are almost always associated," he says, "with the moments of waking or falling asleep. They may be of the briefest time, yet may appear long.

"I was once benighted with a party when climbing without guides in Switzerland. We were finally forced to stop in our descent by a precipice, and we got into secure but narrow places. The only change of position I could get was by placing a foot on a rock opposite me, but always to be recalled to my position by my foot falling.

"Once I fell asleep for a moment between placing my foot on the rock and the foot falling, and in this fraction of a second I dreamt that I had to go home, dress for dinner and then drive to the house of my hostess. I arrived there to find that I was rather late. I took the hostess down to dinner and was asked by the butler if I would take mulligatawny soup.

"The soup was the only recent traceable association with the dream. The night before, at our bivouac, one of the party produced some compressed soup, which turned out to be mulligatawny, a soup we thought unsuitable for thirsty souls.

"On another occasion, returning from fishing, I threw myself into an armchair and said to my companion, 'I will sleep for a few minutes before changing my clothes for dinner.' I may say that I have the gift of voluntary sleep.

"This was at 7:25 o'clock. At 7:27 o'clock I awoke, having had a long dream, in which I had had a serious difference of opinion and a prolonged and vexatious argument on a question concerning a young relation having a butler at Oxford. "Thus, by the clock, in the two minutes I decided to sleep, I slept and I dreamt."

In a paper on "Dreams and Their Significance," which Sir George read to one of the branches of the Medico-Psychological association a little time ago, he quoted the suggestion of Hutchinson that there might be reversions to ancestral habits in dreams and that our floating dreams might really be memories of an arboreal existence of simian ancestors. — Pall Mall Gazette.

Water Puts Babies to Sleep.

The people who live in the mountains round Simla have some very curious customs. They believe, for instance, that children benefit by having cold water poured on their heads, though they are unable to state wherein the benefit lies. Babies, from shortly after their birth to the age of four or five years, are daily put with their heads under a small stream of water, remaining there for several hours without wetting their clothes. The water hits the top of its head and then runs off without wetting its clothes. The water has a decided soporific effect, putting the child to sleep almost at once—which may be the explanation of the popularity of the practice. One or two women usually remain in charge of a bunch of babies. — Wide World Magazine.

Making Sure.

Two old Scotsmen were discussing the domestic unhappiness of a mutual friend. "Ay, ay," said one, "Jamie Thompson has a sair time wi' that wife o' his. They say they're aye fechtin'." "What else can ye expect?" said the other scornfully. "The pair feckless creature marrit after courtin' for only seven year. Man, he had nae chance to ken the woman in sich a short time! When I was courtin' I courted for twenty year!" An amused listener to this dialogue ventured to ask if this long courtship had insured connubial bliss, whereupon the old Scotsman replied, "I tell ye I courted for twenty year, and in that time I kent what woman was, and so I didna marry!"

A Worthy Antagonist.

"Did you visit any of the old caves when you were up in Scotland?" Jorkins was asked by a friend. "Yes," replied Jorkins reminiscently, "and, by gum, we had to forcibly pull Maria out of one cave." "Good gracious! She was fascinated by its beauty, I suppose." "No, it wasn't beauty. You see, there is a wonderful echo in the cave, and Maria couldn't bear to think of the echo having the last word." — Liverpool Mercury.

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