An Essay of the Day

It's Never too Late to Live
By Dr. Brian Welbeck

SOME of us are haunted by Thoreau's saying — "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." 0

We grind on through each day, weighed down by the fear of insecurity, the burden of responsibility.

Above all, we chain ourselves to a job—any job—which will promise some measure of security in old age. Important training for stability that robs us of the spirit of adventure and of worthwhile living.

We have crammed into our minds that we may never have a bag of gold; sold our soul for thirty pieces of silver. As Jim Tully said: "As we go through life, little bits of us get lost." Darwin lamently that his thirst for scientific knowledge killed the musical appreciation that enriched his youth.

The world is so full of a number of things we should all be so happy as kings. But are we? And why do we have to say so? Because we have squandered the wealth of life, the reward of enthusiasm.

How is this to be avoided? There are four fundamental rules which I have found that can help many.

Learning to Read Quickly

Courses in quick reading are now held at all the leading colleges and universities in the United States. As a result, political and business life becomes more interesting by leaps and bounds. The amount of work paper work increases and it has been found that spatial training should be given to those who have to read through a lot of material.

One of the main training methods is the use of a piece of apparatus called a tachistoscope. This is a screen which slides down over the printed page at a set speed, so compelling the reader to keep pace with it. As the efficiency of the reader is determined by "keep pace" his interest increases and the screen is increased to as much as 1500 words a minute.

Triple Play

One word can have three different meanings, as illustrated in the groups below. For instance, CHONG has these three meanings: in cross roads, cross to bear, don't cross.

(Answers in this page)

1. The shoemaker's 1—camed in 1—-will 1—forever.
2. don't 1—on 1—up 1—-to 1—-to.
3. f—-f the letters; mail f—-single f—
4. stump g—; passing g—; make the g—
5. money o-—; standing g—
6. pay a f—; feeling f—; f—-point
7. —-word; —-out; on 1—
8. back n—; high —-make a n—
9. helping k—; the other h—; h—down.
10. p— of cheese; p— together; play a p—
11. book f—; sleep like a f—
12. p— of view; come in the p—
13. h— of matter; h— beets, learn by h—
14. g—; slope; h— to g—
15. —-the hill; —- to the h—
16. f—-of hearing h—; w—; as a rock.
17. r—; minded; g—
18. l—; —-of luck.
19. f— of light; f— in the pan; eyes f—

One Summer Night

Looking at the alarm clock handy by my bed, it is midnight now but I still cannot sleep. The great heat which the sun sent down during the day does not seem to cool down. Though I winnow my fan head, and beds of perspiration run from my shoulders, back, arms, and all parts of my body and wet my pyjamas.

It is not so hot but now sitting in an armchair before the window. Overlooking the quiet street under me I feel a sort of sense of oneness. (Note: The surface of the earth is hot and has lights flashing. Why?) The y are the reflections of the fire. Further are two lines of brilliant street-lamps just like a wreath of diamonds. Lifting my head I gazed at the sparkling stars hanging in the sky and the distant Milky Way which crosses heaven. The great heat seems to have all gone; lying comfortably in the armchair I was enveloped by a cool breeze and eventually I fell into a deep sleep.

Dicosma Boys' School 7th Mar, 1950

Comments by James Lai

The author does not want to make his comments on the author's work, but it is necessary to mention that he was not satisfied with the work. He felt that the author could have done better.

No Gift

Paul's mother warned her son that he could never gain anything if he did not fight hard for it.

One day, Paul came back from school with two black eyes.

"Who gave you the two black eyes?" asked his mother. "Who gave them to me?" cried Paul. "I had to fight hard for them!"

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