

such conditions the mechanical functions of the mind are active, though uncontrolled by the judgment, and thus it happens that one's dreams are apt to be unreasonable and even absurd.

Could anything be more interesting than to trace the progress of a dream, if it were only possible? Think of the variety of experiences through which one would be conveyed, untrammelled by the limitations of common sense which restrict one's waking thoughts, and freed from the moral responsibilities that incumber the doings of ordinary life. Probability sets no bounds to the dreamer's vision, and even conscience is dormant, since the most righteous of men do, on occasions, misbehave themselves most shockingly in the strange land of nod.

Most desirable of all things would it be to be able to control one's dreams and fashion the sleep fancies into shapes pleasing and arabesque, so that Morpheus might lift the curtain every night upon a delightful and entertaining stage play, with no horrors in it to rake up the feelings unpleasantly. For the purpose of accomplishing something of this sort, a Washington man has invented an ingenious contrivance in the shape of a sort of adjustable skeleton nightcap, with small cushioned screws that can be turned down so as to press upon certain parts of the head.

Teachers of phrenological science, as everybody knows, have divided the pericranium into areas, each of which represents certain definite ideas and emotions. Thus, there is no difficulty in applying the screws to whatever center of thoughts or feelings it may be desired to excite. When a person is trying to think very hard he instinctively presses his forehead over the organs of reflection, and it is the same principle that is utilized by this instrument. The pressure is excitive, and the subject has simply to adjust the screws suitably in order to call the attention of the mind, as one might say, in corresponding directions. Before going to sleep he regulates the machine and directs his dreams accordingly.

For example, suppose he is in love and desires visions in accordance with his hopes. He fixes the screws so as to exert a gentle pressure upon the organs of amativeness, low down