FOOD AND GENIUS

IN MANY MANY CASES STARVATION HAS AIDED THINKING

In a passage of his "Confessions" descanting upon the nature of dreams Thomas De Quincey concludes that the exact condition indicated is a question of accuracy in terms. He was accustomed on medical authority that a man could be and had been drunk on beefsteak. This is largely true, for every solid food may produce at any rate great promotion to heat a man say. So also is mental torpor. The comfort of a good dinner may have suggested a writer's anything." Just because he does not theme we doubt whether it ever work Scandal we must be denied the promptly stirred his pen. It is the rule. The natural man's and pen empty stomach rage suits a full Socrates was as much he that do food and ideas that the self-fondness before retire with the rest of a mental repast. Only Wordsworth and Hallam Tennyson, we believe, were ever discovered by the biographer at work at 4 o'clock in the morning. Dickens, we are told, was always at his desk at 9 o'clock, and Thackeray began work at 8. Trollope, who was a man of business as well as a novelist, had a habit of working for three hours before breakfast. Scott, who had a kind of frenzy of application and a continuous determination that are impossible to men not so endowed. Such habits of the will and of the brain demand at the outset a healthy energy of a human being. No sound member of the commonwealth, which is man, must seek employment while the master portrays this at work. Scott is then that the little cutting worker blesses the world with fruits which the god-like hands of Shakespeare and Homer could not produce. Dickens