

Here was a theatre, to which Fritz was often admitted as a reward for industry, and he became so fond of it that instead of playing at preaching he began play-acting with his sisters. When the duke established a military school at the "Solitude," near Ludwigsburg, young Schiller as a bright pupil was invited to enter it. At first Schiller studied law, but later he was allowed to study his father's profession, medicine. Here he remained until he was 21, when he was appointed as surgeon to one of the duke's regiments.

While Schiller was at the "Solitude" he wrote his first play, "The Robbers." He wrote it in secret, frequently pretending to be ill in order to find time for writing. Every publisher to whom he applied refused it, and he finally borrowed money and had the play printed at his own expense. It was received with great enthusiasm.

"The Robbers" deals with two brothers, Karl and Franz. Franz, the younger brother, is jealous of the elder, and succeeds in duping his unsuspecting father and brother by means of forged letters in which he shows each to the other in a false light. Karl is disgusted with the wickedness and injustice of society, and, like Robin Hood, he becomes a leader of a band

expressed in the play, and because Schiller had left Stuttgart without permission. He punished the young poet with arrest, and forbade him to "write comedies or anything of that sort." But Schiller soon made his escape and fled from Württemberg with a friend.

For the next seven years Schiller struggled along, writing several plays and receiving small compensation for his literary products. But he was gradually attaining renown. Then a friend introduced him to the young Duke of Weimar, to whom he read part of one of his plays. The duke showed his pleasure by making Schiller one of his councillors. This position led to his appointment as professor of history at Jena University in 1789.

His Friendship with Goethe

With the little income he now received he was enabled, in 1790, to marry Charlotte von Lengefeld, a sweet, lovable young woman. Soon after he formed an intimate friendship with Goethe, and in 1799 he removed to Weimar, partly in order to be near Goethe, who was director of the theatre at Weimar. This was the greatest and most productive period of Schiller's life, but his health was gradually failing. In 1805 he died at Weimar, one of the best-loved German poets of all time.

The two best-known plays of Schiller are "The Maid of Orleans" and "William Tell," the heroine of the former being the French peasant girl, Joan of Arc. He was also the author of many famous ballads and lyrics. His fame belongs to the period before Germany was corrupted by Prussianism, so that it shines even brighter to-day than it did before the German Revolution.

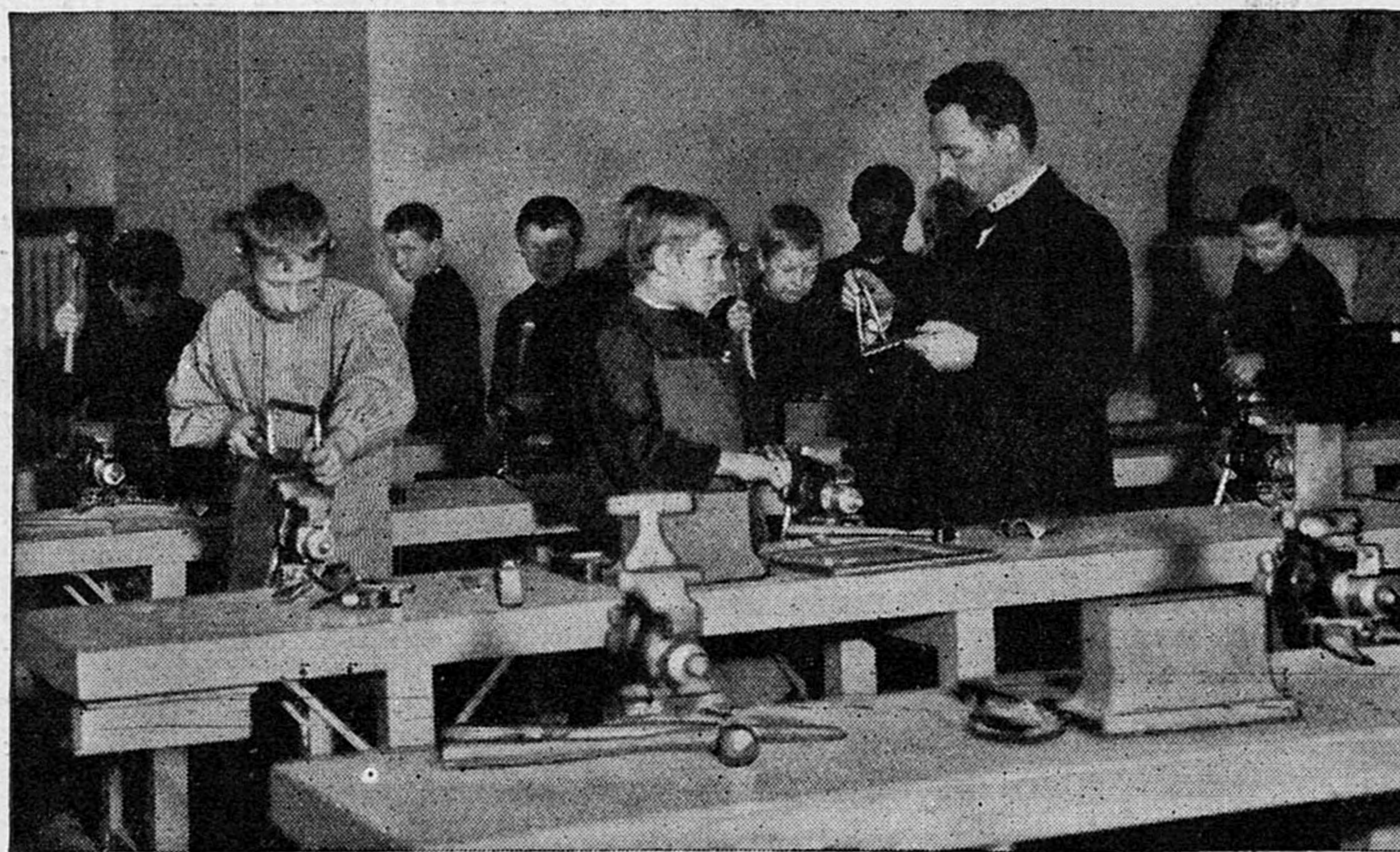
Schiller's chief plays were: "The Robbers" (1781); "Don Carlos" (1787); "Wallenstein" (1800); "Mary Stuart" (1800); "The Maid of Orleans" (1802); "The Bride of Messina" (1803); "William Tell" (1804).

SCHOOL. The very earliest schools were founded by the first Christian missionaries in order to give religious teaching. In most

cases they were attached to monasteries, the teachers were monks or priests, and the scholars were taught from the Latin Bible, which was their first and only reading book.

As time went on the English monasteries became great centres of learning, and people came to them from all parts of the world. Various Latin writers were now read, and music and the fine arts encouraged. In the 14th and 15th centuries grammar-schools were built by wealthy men in different towns. In

MANUAL TRAINING IN A SWEDISH SCHOOL



Manual training is one of the many excellent features of the fine Swedish school systems. It was in Sweden that the system of manual training for younger children—the A B C of this excellent business—originated.

of outlaws, who avenge the oppressed. Throughout the play runs the cry for liberty. In the end Karl discovers that his attempts to right wrongs by committing new wrongs, to enforce the laws by lawlessness, and to correct violence by violence, are nothing but criminal folly.

"The Robbers" was played for the first time in Mannheim, in January 1782, and Schiller secretly left his regiment in Stuttgart in order to see the production. The duke became very angry, both on account of the republican ideas