This non-musical ringing in my ears
  cicada sound,
gets lost inside the noisy day.

Distraction ends when I am with myself;
The din grows louder,
  construction site, machinery.
It doesn't leak into conversation with others,
  stymie daily doings.
But at night my auditory companion grows insistent
and, lying on my pillow,
  the lights out,
the house already creaking in repose,
I mouth my nightly orison:

"I'm trying to sleep—
Would you please be quiet in there?"

Melvyn Schreiber, MD

Dr. Schreiber (AΩA, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, 1954) is the Robert N. Cooley Distinguished Professor of Radiology at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston. His address is: The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Department of Radiology, Galveston, Texas 77555-0709.