

**MIND AND HEALTH
SERIES. THE MEANING
OF DREAMS**

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Mind and Health Series. The Meaning of Dreams by Isador H. Coriat

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**MIND AND HEALTH
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THE MEANING OF DREAMS

This One



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MIND AND HEALTH SERIES

Edited by H. Addington Bruce, A.M.

THE
MEANING *of* DREAMS

BY

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*"Dreams are the true interpreters of our inclinations;
but great skill is required to sort and understand them."*

—MONTAIGNE.



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To
E. D. C.

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

IN accordance with the purpose of this series to extend knowledge of the important discoveries affecting individual and social welfare that have been made during recent years through psychological investigation, the present volume surveys the principles and results of scientific dream-analysis along the lines first formulated by Doctor Sigmund Freud, of Vienna. Though Freud's views are by no means those of all medical psychologists, and have indeed been vigorously criticized by not a few, there is general agreement that he has rendered a real service to both psychology and medicine by his demonstration of the practical value of dream-study. Certainly no one has more thoroughly investigated

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

the mechanism of dreams, and all future explorers of this phase of the mental life of man will owe much to his pioneering efforts.

To be sure, it must also be said that most medical psychologists at present believe Freud has erred in attempting to reduce all dreams to a single formula. Certainly, however, his formula holds good in a surprisingly large number of instances, as the reader will discover. And, apart from the question of its invariability, there can be no denying the soundness of the fundamental principle on which all Freudian dream-analysis rests—the principle, namely, that every dream, no matter how trivial, fantastic, or meaningless it may seem, has a definite meaning, and a meaning that sometimes is of great significance to the dreamer.

Consequently a series like the present one would be incomplete without a detailed survey of dreams from the Freudian stand-