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SERIES, NO. 17: FREUD'S
THEORIES OF THE NEUROSES**

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Dr. Eduard Hitschmann

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DR. EDUARD HITSCHMANN

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FREUD'S THEORIES OF THE NEUROSES

BY
DR. EDUARD HITSCHMANN
of Vienna

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INTRODUCTION

BY

ERNEST JONES, M.D. (London), M.R.C.P. (London),

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO; SECRETARY
OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHO-ANALYTIC ASSOCIATION

Dr. Hitschmann has in this volume undertaken an important task, namely, a synthetic presentation of the Freudian theory. It will on all sides be acknowledged that the need for this has long been felt, the reason being that it is exceedingly difficult properly to grasp the significance of the theory from the reading only of disconnected fragments, which taken in themselves often present an appearance that is far from convincing.

The especial difficulty inherent in any attempt to render a connected description as is here given lies in the fact that the Freudian theory represents not a fixed philosophic doctrine but a growing body of science. Strangely enough this has sometimes been made a source of reproach to Professor Freud, as indicating a fluctuating change and lack of stability in his conclusions. It is certainly true that during the gradual evolution of his methods and conclusions, an evolution which is still in progress, he has been led to introduce various modifications into his earlier views. These have always been, however, of the nature of amplifications rather than of retractions, increasing experience having shown him that some of his earlier views were, though correct so far as they went, yet incomplete and at times imperfectly oriented.

This very evolution is surely evidence in itself that the conclusions reached are based on definite data of experience, and represent no subjective opinions of the author; a theory of such novel and intricate matters as unconscious mental processes should, on the contrary, arouse a justifiable suspicion were it promulgated as being complete and perfect from its inception. The further consideration has to be weighed that the field of Professor Freud's investigations has undergone a remarkable widening in the course of years. Confined at first to the study of the neuroses, it became

extended first to the subject of normal dream life, of the processes underlying the production of wit, and the development and variation of the instinct of sex. In the past eight years it has been further extended so as to comprise on the one hand various deviations from the normal, such as criminality, certain psychoses, failures in mental functioning with healthy people, the nature and origin of sexual perversions, and on the other hand an increasing number of more normal manifestations, such as the source of literary and artistic inspiration, the evolution of language, the structure and meaning of religious, mythological and superstitious beliefs, and the sources of many other human interests and activities, encroaching thus in ever widening circles on the domain of normal psychology. These last named extensions, Dr. Hitschmann has here for the first time given a connected account of, one which no doubt would have been less brief had not the main purpose of the book been a medical one; those who are interested in these important aspects of psycho-analysis may be referred to a special journal, *Imago*, which is devoted to the non-medical applications of the subject. When one works systematically over the apparently disconnected fields here mentioned, one realizes more and more both the breadth and the unity of the fundamental conceptions that follow from psycho-analytic investigations. They constitute an organic whole, and it would seem that the time is now ripe for a presentation of them as such.

In carrying out this task, Dr. Hitschmann has been singularly successful. Being in near personal touch with Professor Freud himself and also having at his disposal an extensive psycho-analytic experience, he is in a position to render an especially faithful presentation of both the theory and the practice of the subject. He has subordinated his personal views and striven to reproduce Professor Freud's own as exactly as possible, making indeed lengthy quotations from the latter's writings so as to furnish an additional safeguard against any deflections. The book should therefore be invaluable to those who contemplate making a serious study of this important subject, and should serve as a useful introduction to more detailed and special publications.

When Dr. Hitschmann asked me to suggest the name of a translator for his book, I must confess that I felt at a considerable loss, for it was clear to me that the task would be no easy one.

German is a harder language to translate from than French, and as most of the sentences have to be entirely reconstructed, the translator must have a thorough knowledge both of German and of the subject-matter, especially so in such a book as the present one where so much material is tightly packed into a relatively small space. Further, not only had English equivalents to be found for the new terms that inevitably accompany new ideas, but so much of the thought was novel and strange that in order to make the translation intelligible especial care had to be taken in couching the language in an unambiguous, lucid and accurately grammatical form, a responsibility not always realized by translators of scientific works. I had the good fortune, however, of being able to enlist the energies of Dr. Payne, who has, as I know from a personal acquaintance with his work, a thorough knowledge and understanding of psycho-analysis and whose care in rendering the precise meaning of the original combined with a rare happiness of expression will commend itself to all his readers. Dr. Payne has further enriched the book with a number of foot-notes that elucidate particularly difficult passages in the text, and has added bibliographical references to some of the rapidly accumulating literature in English. May his translation win the success it is justly entitled to.

ERNEST JONES.

PREFACE

The motives that led me to believe there is a need for a summary of the Freudian investigations have only been strengthened during its preparation.

The book is intended to serve as an introduction as well as an incentive to the study of Freud's works and the application of the psycho-analytic methods; it aims at separating from the ranks of the indifferent and antagonistic those whose position is due to insufficient or erroneous information; finally it is desired that this book by pointing out the unsolved problems of the theory may further their solution.

Later editions will have to take into consideration the progress or modifications as well as the new views arising from them. I am greatly indebted to Professor Freud for his revision and many suggestions and to Dr. O. Rank for his collaboration in preparing the book.

DR. EDUARD HITSCHMANN.

VIENNA,
Autumn, 1910.