MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

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Medical psychology and psychical research by T. W. Mitchell

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T. W. MITCHELL

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T. W. MITCHELL, M.D.

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHIGAL RESEARCH AUTHOR OF "THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MUNICIPE"

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PREFACE

HIS book deals with those branches of Medical Psychology which have thrown most light on the problems of Psychical Research, namely, Hypnotism, Hysteria, and Multiple Personality. The greater part of the contents has already been published in the form of papers contributed to the Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research during the last fifteen years. "The Appreciation of Time by Somnambules" (Chapter I) appeared in 1907; "A Study in Hysteria" (Chapter II) in 1912; "The Doris Fischer Case of Multiple Personality" (Chapter V) in 1920: these papers are reprinted here almost unaltered. The substance of Chapters III, IV, and VI was embodied in a paper entitled "Some Types of Multiple Personality" which appeared in Proceedings, S.P.R. in 1912; but in the present book considerable additions to the original paper have been made. The greater part of Chapter IV (in which is described what I have called the Jekyll and Hyde type of double personality), and also part of Chapter VI, are now published for the first time.

I desire to express my thanks to the Council of the Society for Psychical Research for permission to republish papers contributed by me to the *Proceedings* of that Society.

T. W. M.

Hadlow, Kent August, 1922 *

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MEDICAL PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

CHAPTER I

THE APPRECIATION OF TIME BY SOMNAMBULES

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ANY classifications of the different stages of hypnosis have been put forward, and it is difficult to find two authors who are in agreement as to how many stages may be recognized, or by what names they are to be known. All hypnotic subjects, however, may be divided into two great groups, according to whether the events of hypnosis are forgotten or not in the waking state; and the term "somnambule" has been very generally used to describe those who, when hypnosis is terminated, are totally amnesic for all that has happened during the trance.

Although some interesting observations in regard to appreciation of time may be made in the lighter stages of hypnosis, it is in somnambules that this power is most strikingly shown and may be most conveniently studied. All the observations recorded or referred to in this paper were made on somnambules, and with regard to my own cases I can declare with the greatest certainty that in every instance post-hypnotic amnesia was complete.

Every one who has done much practical hypnotic work