IMAGINATION IN DREAMS AND THEIR STUDY

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Imagination in dreams and their study by Frederick Greenwood

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FREDERICK GREENWOOD

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PREFACE

Two essays—one of them published in the Contemporary Review, the other in the New Review—are the foundation of this little book. Those papers were favoured with a good deal of attention; which I take as additional evidence, in a small way, that though most of us make it a point of enlightenment to speak slightingly of dreams the contempt we ask credit for is rarely sincere. We really know better than to speak slightingly of dreams; unless, indeed, we have no experience of them or have never dreamt anything but incoherent and inconsequential nonsense.

In this volume the original matter reappears. But there was more to say than could be said within the limit of a couple of review articles, and therefore, in making a book of it, there has been a considerable expansion of theory, suggestion, and illustration.

It is the illustration, the dreams which have been chosen to exemplify the potentialities of mind in sleep, that will be most interesting to the greater number of readers. And though speculation is all very well, only by such experiences as these do we learn. Therefore I shall be glad if any dreamer of dreams like those I have cited-that is to say, dreams which are psychologically informing, or that testify to the powers of imagination in sleep-will give me the benefit of what insight he has gained. There is little difficulty in distinguishing between dreams which have a scientific interest and those that have none; or if there be any difficulty, the following pages may serve to diminish it. My publisher will take in any communication on the

subject that may kindly be sent; or letters may be addressed to me at the Garrick Club, London.

The reader will find that some things touched upon in the first essay, 'Imagination in Dreams,' reappear in the other one on 'The Study of Dreams.' But it will also be seen that they are only brought on again for discussion in the more appropriate place, or for additional illustration.

F. G.



