PSYCHOLOGY & THE SOLDIER
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BY

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CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
MCMXXVII


PREFACE

During the Great War of 1914—1918 every important belligerent country called upon its psychologists for technical advice and assistance, and by common consent much of the work done proved of the greatest value. When the War was over and courses of Military Study were being re-organised in Cambridge, lectures dealing with psychology in relation to military problems were begun. They were due to the initiative of Dr C. S. Myers, C.B.E., F.R.S., who was then Director of the Cambridge Psychological Laboratory, and who had been Official Psychologist to the British Expeditionary Force in France, and Lieut.-Col. L. H. Thornton, C.M.G., D.S.O., who was then Director of Military Studies at Cambridge. These lectures have been continued since that time, and I have been responsible for them for the last six years. The present book is a selection from the lectures delivered in connexion with this Course. It does not in any way pretend to be a complete treatment of the relations of Psychology to the soldier and to his life. It is merely an introduction to an important field of applied psychology which has in the past been unduly neglected.

I am very greatly indebted to Brig.-Gen. E. W. Costello, V.C., C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O., Director of Military Studies at the University of Cambridge,
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for his encouragement and help in the production of this small volume. He read through the whole of the typescript and made a number of exceedingly valuable comments and criticisms, many, though not all of which, I have most gladly accepted. It will be obvious to every reader that some of the questions discussed, particularly in Part II, are of a controversial character, and for the opinions expressed or adopted therein I must accept all responsibility.

I should also like to say that the plan and mode of discussion have gained greatly from the criticisms and difficulties freely expressed by many students during the years of my lectures. To them, also, I am grateful.

That the treatment is, as a whole, expressed in general terms and may often appear somewhat theoretical is inevitable in a book of the present size, or, indeed, of any size short of a series of large volumes. There is no need to remind the soldier that every man must learn for himself how to apply that modification of general principles which will solve specific practical problems.

F. C. BARTLETT

Cambridge, September 24, 1927
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