THE WISH TO
FALL ILL
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A Study of Psychoanalysis and Medicine

BY

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PREFACE

Dr Karin Stephen has brought to the study of psychoanalysis an exceptionally critical mind which had previously displayed its capacity in a brilliant career in science and philosophy. In this book she essays the difficult task of conveying the elements of psychoanalytical knowledge to those versed in other fields; I say “difficult” advisedly, because when a student of any other branch of science approaches psychoanalysis he has very few of the direct connecting links to help him which exist in profusion elsewhere in science. In this new field almost everything is strange, unexpected, and often highly unlikely. There are two definite reasons for this. The subject-matter itself, i.e. the workings of the unconscious mind, is concerned with modes of thought extremely alien to those with which we are familiar. Not only so, but we all have within us strong forces which operate without our knowledge and against our will in keeping this unexplored field alien and remote. It is therefore a task of peculiar difficulty to attempt to coordinate knowledge about the unconscious mind with other fields of knowledge.

I have read Dr Stephen’s book with interest and consider she has achieved her aim very successfully. Her evident gift of exposition, together with a thorough first-hand knowledge of the subject, has enabled her to convey a great deal of both the principles and practice of psychoanalysis. It would be hard to think of a better introduction to this complex study than that which her book offers.

Ernest Jones