

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Subject.....

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T. B. K. says that, in replying to inquirers for books on nerves, I could well have included "Nerves and Personal Power" by the late Dr. D. Macdougall King (Kewell), which he has found most valuable for the lay reader. I have a double use for this book, the one indicated and that I may call it to the attention of the wife of the resident physician of San Quentin prison, for whom I recently compiled a strange and beautiful list. The books on it were to be used by men in the prison hospital and are by or about men who put up a brave fight under serious physical handicaps, like the "Autobiography of Dr. Trudeau" (Doubleday, Page), or the lives of Stevenson (by Balfour (Scribner), or Masson (Stokes)). Without stopping to look up a name I set down two solid pages of names and titles without going further back than modern literature. The "Journal of Marie Lénart" (Macmillan), who at fourteen was made deaf, seems to me the noblest and is surely of the highest literary quality of recent literature of confession, and there is Barbellion's "Journal of a Disappointed Man" and "A Last Diary" (Doran), and the flashing glimpses of Parkman in Mandel Howe Elliott's "Three Generations" (Little, Brown)—the pale man in black spectacles who tramped with a sort of desperate energy and then sat exhausted, her friend's father, who was "writing a very important book, but he can only work on it twenty minutes at a time." Dr. Macdougall King had won in a long fight with tuberculosis when a progressive muscular atrophy declared itself. Facing certain death, he set down the things he had learned to live by in this valuable book. "Nerves and Personal Power," "The Healing Power," by Helen Boulton (Dutton), is a little book just written by an ex-invalid who has become a world traveler.

King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG 26 J 7 volume 17) Dr. and Mrs. Dougall Macdougall (Max) King - Clippings - Nerves and Personal Power - Reviews n.d., 1922-1943

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