

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Subject: Nerves and Personal Power

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**Nerves and Personal Power**

Nerves and Personal Power. By D. Macdougall King. New York: Fleming H. Revell Company.

THE circumstances under which this non-technical yet scientific book was written gives it a high authority. The author, through personal experience, realized the point of view of a sufferer. A physician in the city of Ottawa, at the age of thirty-five, was suddenly stricken with influenza complicated with double pneumonia. Then he waged successfully a battle with tuberculosis for over five years. The "happy warrior" after winning, was faced with a losing fight. Crippled and bedridden, as the result of organic nerve degeneration, he finally succumbed to complete paralysis. Yet, through all this progressive muscular atrophy, he reveals the true physician's touch of hope. A rare spiritual attainment is recorded.

Apart altogether from the human value of the book is its scientific. Dr. King assembles much material from philosophy, psychology, and other sources having a direct bearing on this border-line subject, which will be important in medico-legal controversies and all social service work. Having shown in chapters on "instincts," "environment," "discrimination," and "sub-conscious self," how it is that symptoms of nervousness owe their origin to failure of the "moral self" to make the body conform to natural law, the author indicates at the end of the book how these symptoms may disappear.

The author is not describing in his psychology, for the whole discussion is an effort to find a middle way between extreme puritanical teaching and the sophistry of those who decide to get all the pleasure possible, "while the going is good."

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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