

## IN RELIGION

beside your dead body, as the child does when he wishes himself dead in order to grieve his parents, and sees himself revenged by their sorrow. Now, the goal of omnipotence and immortality is no less than the wish to be a god. Think what this means! You have a mind nine-tenths of which is unconscious, but none the less dynamic with the fixed goal of being godlike. And you set up your puny reason as a combatant against the force of this giant wisher who would be a god.

"Therein lies the secret of the power of the creed of Christ; for whether you believe that Christ is a God who became a man or a man who became a God, his creed is the union of a conscious belief with an unconscious conviction. And no matter where the unconscious mind obtained that conviction, this practical result ensues: the cure and restoration of a defective personality is not possible, in my experience, if the patient has lost his belief in the immortality of the soul. As soon as the process of mental analysis shows me that the patient has a fixed atheism, I drop the case. I have learned from many failures that I have here no foundation on which to build, that I am working in quicksand.

"I do not mean that I have any scien-