INTRODUCTION

LECTURE I

RELIGION AND NEUROLOGY

Introduction: the course is not anthropological, but deals with personal documents—Questions of fact and questions of value—In point of fact, the religious are often neurotic—Criticism of medical materialism, which condemns religion on that account—Theory that religion has a sexual origin refuted—All states of mind are neurally conditioned—Their significance must be tested not by their origin but by the value of their fruits—Three criteria of value; origin useless as a criterion—Advantages of the psychopathic temperament when a superior intellect goes with it—especially for the religious life.

LECTURE II

CIRCUMSCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC

Futility of simple definitions of religion—No one specific "religious sentiment"—Institutional and personal religion—We confine ourselves to the personal branch—Definition of religion for the purpose of these lectures—Meaning of the term "divine"—The divine is what prompts solemn reactions—Impossible to make our definitions sharp—We must study the more extreme cases—Two ways of accepting the universe—Religion is more enthusiastic than philosophy—Its characteristic is enthusiasm in solemn emotion—Its ability to overcome unhappiness—Need of such a faculty from the biological point of view.

LECTURE III

THE REALITY OF THE UNSEEN

Percepts versus abstract concepts—Influence of the latter on belief
—Kant's theological Ideas—We have a sense of reality other than
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—The feeling of unreality—Sense of a divine presence: examples
—Mystical experiences: examples—Other cases of sense of God's

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LECTURES IV AND V

THE RELIGION OF HEALTHY-MINDEDNESS

Happiness is man's chief concern-"Once-born" and "twiceborn" characters-Walt Whitman-Mixed nature of Greek feeling-Systematic healthy-mindedness-Its reasonableness-Liberal Christianity shows it—Optimism as encouraged by Popular Science—The "Mind-cure" movement—Its creed—Cases—Its doctrine of evil-Its analogy to Lutheran theology-Salvation by relaxation-Its methods: suggestion-meditation-"recollection" -verification-Diversity of possible schemes of adaptation to the poiverse-APPENDIX: Two mind-cure cases.

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CONVERSION

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