

# TW Mitchell

TW Mitchell (1869-1944) was a medical psychologist and psychotherapist with an interest in cases of multiple personality (dissociative identity disorder).

## Career

Thomas Walker Mitchell studied medicine at Edinburgh University, then worked in private practice as a psychoanalyst. He was a member of the British Psychoanalytical Society, also of the Psycho-Medical Society whose journal, the *British Journal of Medical Psychology*, he edited. He was interested in hypnosis,<sup>1</sup> which he was among the first to use in a therapeutic context.<sup>2</sup>

## Psychical Research

Mitchell joined the Society for Psychical Research in 1906, later serving on its governing council and as president in 1921. He was particularly interested in the questions raised by cases of multiple personality (now dissociative identity disorder), researching a case that emerged in his own medical practice.<sup>3</sup> He wrote about different types of cases,<sup>4</sup> focusing in particular on Doris Fisher.<sup>5</sup>

## Selected Works

### Books

*The Psychology of Medicine* (1921). London: Methuen & Co. Ltd.

*Medical Psychology and Psychical Research* (1922). London: Methuen & Co. Ltd.

*Problems in Psychopathology* (1927). London: K. Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co.

*The Phenomena of Mediumistic Trance* (1928). London: Constable and Company Ltd.

### Articles and Reviews

The appreciation of time by somnambules (1907). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 21, 2-59.

Review of *Religion and Medicine: The Moral Control of Nervous Disorders*, by E. Worcester, S. McComb, & I. Coriat (1909). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 14, 100-104.

Supplement: Some recent developments in psychotherapy (1910). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 24, 665-86.

A study in hysteria and double personality (1910). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 14, 263-65.

Review of *Mesmerism and Christian Science: A Short History of Mental Healing*, by F. Podmore (1910). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 24, 687-97.

The hypnoidal state of Sidis (1911). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 25, 338-52.

Some types of multiple personality (1912). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 26, 258-85.

A study in hysteria and multiple personality, with report of a case (1912). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 26, 286-311.

Review of *Collected Papers on Analytical Psychology*, by CG Jung (1916). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 29, 191-95.

Psychology of the unconscious and psychoanalysis (1918). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 30, 134-73.

The Doris Fisher case of multiple personality (1920). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 31, 30-74.

Review of *Papers on Psycho-Analysis*, by E. Jones (1920). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 31, 94-102.

Review of *Psychology and Psychotherapy*, by W. Brown. In *Collected Papers on the Psychology of Phantasy*, by C. Long.

Review of *The New Psychology and its Relation to Life*, by A. Tansley (1922). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 32, 379-84.

Presidential Address (1923). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 33, 1-22.

Review of *Science and Personality*, by W. Brown (1930). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 26, 35-37.

Obituary: Morton Prince (1930). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 26, 42-43.

The contributions of psychical research to psychotherapeutics (1939). *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 45, 175-86.

## **Literature**

Mitchell, T.W. (1907). The appreciation of time by somnambules, *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 21, 2-59.

Mitchell, T.W. (1912a). A study in hysteria and multiple personality, with report of a case. *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 26, 286-311.

Mitchell, T.W. (1912b). Some types of multiple personality. *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 26, 258-85.

Mitchell, T.W. (1920). The Doris Fisher case of multiple personality. *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* 31, 30-74.

Wright, M.B. (1945). Obituary: Thomas Walker Mitchell. *British Journal of Medical Psychology* 20/3, 14.

## Endnotes

### Footnotes

- [1.](#) See, for instance Mitchell (1907), 2-59.
- [2.](#) Wright (1945), 14.
- [3.](#) Mitchell (1912a).
- [4.](#) Mitchell (1912b).
- [5.](#) Mitchell (1920).

© Psi Encyclopedia