

ing, and after convulsive seizures. A decrease in the blood volume was found during the convulsive state, and a large number of other records have been made, which the physicians hope will give new information on the funda-

mental character of epilepsy. The understanding of the abnormal changes in the water content of the blood may also lead to better methods of dehydrating the epileptic patient, they reported.

*Science News Letter, June 13, 1931*

## PSYCHOLOGY

## Humor Saved Lincoln From Serious Mental Disease

### Study Presented Before Psychiatrists Classifies Famous Civil War President as a Schizoid-Manic Type

**L**INCOLN'S famous sense of humor saved him from being swept away by the strong forces of his mental make-up, Dr. A. A. Brill, psychoanalyst of New York, declared in a paper on the personality of the great Civil War President. This paper was read before the American Psychiatric Association at Toronto in spite of protests from some members.

Dr. Brill declared emphatically that his study of Lincoln is entirely scientific with no thought of being derogatory to one of America's eminent statesmen. Far from implying that Lincoln was insane, Dr. Brill's conclusion is that Lincoln succeeded in maintaining his mental integrity in circumstances which would have dragged a less strong personality down into mental disease.

The psychoanalyst classifies Lincoln as a schizoid-manic type. Schizoid to the analyst means a shut-in, thoughtful type of personality. Manic means inclined to moods of buoyancy. Dr. Brill has studied George Washington's type, concluding that he was a schizoid, contrasting with Roosevelt, who was manic.

Such traits are conspicuous in mentally diseased persons, where the tendencies become exaggerated and uncontrolled. In normal persons the traits exist but less noticeably. Lincoln was pulled constantly in two directions by his conflicting shut-in and buoyant tendencies, Dr. Brill showed. He saved himself from being swept away by these strong forces by his famous sense of humor. The funny stories he told and his jesting attitude toward serious problems were his successful way of rising above an existence which he found so distressingly full of melancholy problems. Dr. Brill called Lincoln's jesting the safety valve which kept him from being torn apart by two distinct forces of his personality.

Dr. J. T. Moreno of New York suggested that Lincoln might have been playing an assumed role, when he jested at crises. He protests strongly that it is unfair for a psychiatrist to analyze the character of a man now dead. Dr. Brill had taken the position that when a noted man's friends and contemporaries leave stories about him, the generations that follow have a right to accept the record, using judgment as to the accuracy of the facts.

"Something is fundamentally wrong with the theory of psychoanalysis," Dr. Moreno states, "and the more unusual the personality, the more dangerous it is to apply the accepted formula as valid."

Most of the membership of the

American Psychiatric Association accepted Dr. Brill's carefully prepared study of Lincoln as a scientific contribution of merit. The president of the association, Dr. W. M. English of the Ontario Hospital at Brockville, said that he saw nothing in Dr. Brill's paper of which to complain.

Much of Lincoln's emotional difficulties with life can be traced to his father, who ill-treated him, Dr. Brill showed, pointing out that normality so-called depends altogether on a son's adjustment to his parents, especially the father.

"The whole future adjustment of the son to his teachers, employers, and the state depends on his early adjustment to his father," the psychoanalyst declared.

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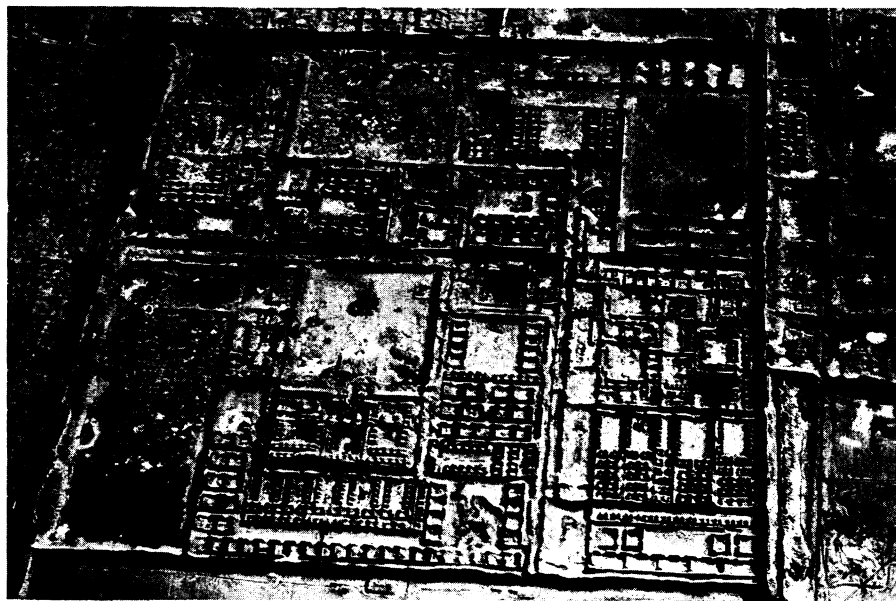
## ELECTRICITY

## Cost of Electricity Read Directly in Cents Per Hour

**A**N ELECTRIC meter which anyone can read at a glance and readily understand is being used by the National Rural Electric Project, College Park, Md. It reads directly in cents' worth of electricity consumed per hour as well as in kilowatt hours, the engineers' unit.

The meter is designed especially for use in demonstrations before farmers, to show concretely the cost of operating farm equipment by electric power.

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LIKE THE PLAN OF A MODERN CITY

*Is the pattern made on the sun-baked wastes of Peru by the crumbling ruins of Chan-Chan, ancient capital of the Chimú people. This is a close-up aerial view taken by the Shippee-Johnson expedition of the walled palace of the Grand Chimú, whose kingdom was overrun by the Incas just before the Spanish conquest.*