

ALLENIST PROTESTS 'ATTACK' ON LINCOLN

Dr. Hicks Scores Speech Drafted
by Dr. Brill on Mentality of
the Former President.

HE TERMS IT "BLASPHEMY"

Former Columbia Psychiatrist, In
Talk for Convention, Held Lincoln
Had Malady of Mind.

A speech prepared by Dr. A. A. Brill, former head of the psychiatry clinic at Columbia University, for delivery at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Toronto June 5, classifying Abraham Lincoln as "a schizoid-manic personality," who suffered attacks of mental disorder, has evoked a bitter protest from Dr. Edward E. Hicks, Brooklyn psychiatrist and alienist.

At his home at 619 Second Street, Brooklyn, last night, Dr. Hicks said the statements of Dr. Brill came to his notice in the printed form of the convention program, containing abstracts of the speeches to be delivered at Toronto.

A week ago, he said, he sent a formal protest to Dr. Walter M. English of Brockville, Ont., president of the association, and to Dr. Samuel W. Hamilton of the Bloomingdale Hospital in White Plains. In these protests Dr. Hicks said he described his colleague's remarks about the American President as an insult to right-thinking Americans and to the memory of "one of the two greatest Presidents in the history of this Republic." One of the assertions to which Dr. Hicks took exception was to the effect that Lincoln's occasional coarseness of wit was a manifestation of his psychosis.

Dr. Brill's protest to Dr. English read: "It seems to me that it is about time the American people awoke to the fact that we have an element in this country who seem to thrive on slime and filth, even to attacking the memory of the greatest personalities that this country has had in its history, and as a member of the American Psychiatrist Association I feel it my duty that I make protest against permitting such a paper to be read at its annual congress in Toronto."

"Blaspheming the memory of the immortal dead should cease. Probably 90 per cent of its membership are loyal citizens and are residents of the United States, and I feel this proposed address is an insult to right-thinking Americans and to the sacred memory of one of the two greatest Presidents in the history of this Republic."

Dr. Hicks also contended that Dr. Brill had applied Freudian theories to his analysis of Lincoln. Dr. Brill is credited with being one of the leading exponents of Freudianism in this country.

Dr. Hicks also took exception to Dr. Brill's closing sentence in the prepared paper, which read: "Abraham's oral erotic theory in manic-depressive psychosis is fully confirmed by the study of this phase of Abraham Lincoln."

Dr. Brill's subject for discussion at the convention is "Abraham Lincoln as a Humorist." In it, he described Lincoln as the only President who had been known to appreciate and produce wit, and conceded that besides being a great wit he was one of the outstanding Presidents.

His prepared paper said in part:

"Now and then we encounter in psychiatric practice people who have the capacity to produce wit. They produce wit unconsciously; it comes on the spur of the moment as an inspiration. My experience taught me that these individuals belong to a definite type of personality; they represent a mixture of the schizoid and syntonik personalities.

The extreme of this type is designated by Bleuler as the schizoid-manic psychosis. Did the great emancipator belong to this type of personality? Lincoln had undoubtedly suffered from some psychotic manifestation, notwithstanding the reluctance of two great psychiatrists, Morton Prince and Macfie Campbell, to pronounce judgment on this delicate subject. Any one studying him, even superficially, can readily find the marked emotional fluctuations that swayed his whole life. Lincoln was a schizoid-manic personality, who had definite attacks of this malady."