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THE CASE OF A. L——, AGED 56

Some Curious Medical Aspects of Lincoln's Death and Other Studies

By OTTO EISENSCHIML

So MANY BOOKS have been written about Abraham Lincoln that in unskilled hands the subject has grown stale. But Dr. Otto Eisenschiml is one of those who still find unexplored chapters. Famous chemist, industrialist, historian, author and raconteur, he brings to his writings a mental equipment seldom equalled. In his celebrated book *Why Was Lincoln Murdered?* he pioneered a new era of Lincoln literature and advanced ideas that are still agitating historians. Now he presents new information and new interpretations in an almost uncharted corner of the Lincoln field. THE CASE OF A. L——, AGED 56 is the first competent scientific inquiry into the actual shooting of Lincoln, the effects of the wound, the medical treatment, death and autopsy. Usually somber subjects take life in Dr. Eisenschiml's hands. With the accustomed thoroughness of a trained investigator he points out some historical puzzles and then applies his analytical faculties to effect their solution. To unravel the mysteries which baffled the surgeons of Lincoln's times he has enlisted the assistance of medical men of international repute. The concluding chapter *If Lincoln Had Lived* is not the usual collection of bromides, but has a vital message for today.

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How was it possible for Booth's bullet to enter Lincoln's head on the side opposite from where it had been fired?

Why was Lincoln's wound described in medical journals as a remarkable case?

Could Lincoln have been saved under the care of present-day medical men?

Would Lincoln have become a national hero if he had lived on?

In his new book

THE CASE OF A. L——, AGED 56

Some Curious Medical Aspects of Lincoln's Death and Other Studies

Otto Eisenschiml, outstanding authority on Lincoln's death, throws interesting light on these questions.

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Otto Eisenschiml
1637 South Kilbourn Avenue
CHICAGO

September 14, 1943

Dear Ralph:

You have asked me to tell you something about my forthcoming book THE CASE OF A. L——, AGED 56, so that you may pass the information on to your friends.

Every historical investigator must have been struck by the difficulty of establishing definitely what happened at a certain time and place. In the course of my studies I ran into many such problems, and sheer mental curiosity urged me on to find their solutions. These problems were not always of great importance, but they bothered me just the same, even if my wife kept teasing me that I was the only man in the world who worried about them.

This whole thing started with the enigma of the wound which was, I thought, on the wrong side of Lincoln's head. The first enigma logically led to the second: why did the doctors disagree on their findings at the autopsy? From here on the going became more difficult. I had to take a course in brain pathology, before I could proceed. Incidentally, I also had to acquire some knowledge on pistols, muzzle velocities, composition of bullets, and such.

This book is for connoisseurs only; for lovers of history who like to peek into dark, dusty corners, for Lincoln students, for surgeons, and for all those who enjoy the mental gymnastics of disentangling the knotty threads of mystifying past events.

Sincerely,

Otto Eisenschiml

OE:bs

Mr. Ralph G. Newman
Abraham Lincoln Book Shop
33 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois

Curator
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