

before our reader all that is noteworthy in the book, and we feel that there is ample ground for the superintendents of asylums to fill in the sketch thus placed before them.

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*Herndon's Lincoln: The True Story of a Great Life.* By W. H. HERNDON and J. W. WEIK. Three Vols. Chicago: Belford and Co. 1891.

This work, recently published in America, has at present attracted little attention in England, but it is of great interest, and perhaps of especial interest to the student of morbid psychology. Mr. Herndon is a lawyer, and for over twenty years he was Lincoln's partner. Since the President's murder in 1865 he has been diligently accumulating the written and oral evidence of those who knew Lincoln personally, in order to supplement his own reminiscences. He has genuine reverence for his hero, but he believes also that there is now no need for reticence. The formal and official life of Lincoln has been written by Nicolay and Hay, but Herndon's "Lincoln" is probably a work of deeper and more abiding human interest.

Abraham Lincoln was born on the 12th February, 1809. His mother, Nancy Hanks, from whom he chiefly inherited, was the illegitimate daughter of a Virginia farmer or planter. Lincoln's theory was that illegitimate children are brighter and sturdier than those born in lawful wedlock, and he believed that all his own best qualities could be traced to this illegitimate union. Mrs. Lincoln is described as of feeble physical development. "Her skin was dark, hair dark brown, eyes grey and small, forehead prominent, face sharp and angular, with a marked expression of melancholy, which fixed itself on the memory of everyone who ever saw or knew her." Thomas Lincoln, the father, "was not only devoid of energy and shiftless, but dull." After marriage his wife taught him to write his name and to spell his way through the Bible. He was unsuccessful in everything he undertook; the only skill he possessed was as a hunter, but he never brought it into play except at the urgent demand of his stomach.

At the age of eleven began Lincoln's extraordinary increase in stature; at seventeen he was 6ft. 2in. in height, and at the same time his strength was equal to that of three men. While still a child his mother died, and the widower

shortly afterwards married a widow, whom he had known since childhood. "Her newly-adopted children, for the first time, perhaps, realized the benign influence of a mother's love." With this marriage young Lincoln's education began. His originality and tastes appeared at an early age. Although with a marked dislike for manual labour, he was mentally energetic in a very high degree, and his memory was very retentive. He also wrote much verse, especially lampoons rather coarse in character. While during much of his youth and early manhood Mr. Herndon thinks he may be described as a "loafer," he also did much rough manual work. Once, when engaged with an old mare in working a mill of primitive construction, he struck the mare, and in the midst of exclaiming "Get up, you old hussey!" she suddenly elevated her shoeless hoof, and, striking him on the forehead, sent him bleeding and senseless to the earth. He was thought dead, but became conscious the next day. As cerebral action again began he automatically completed the interrupted sentence, "you old hussey."

The extreme melancholy which Lincoln inherited in a more intense form from his mother was marked in him throughout life. In 1835 the girl to whom he was engaged, the first and probably the only woman whom he really loved, died. This had a very serious effect upon his mind. "If, when we read what the many credible persons who knew him at the time tell us, we do not conclude that he was deranged, we must admit that he walked on that sharp and narrow line which divides sanity from insanity." He was carefully watched, as it was thought he would kill himself, and his recovery did not take place until many weeks after. "There is no question that from this time forward Mr. Lincoln's spells of melancholy became more intense than ever." About two years later he declared to a friend that "although he seemed to others to enjoy life rapturously, yet when alone he was so overcome by mental depression he never dared to carry a pocket-knife." Very soon after the death of the girl whom he loved, however, he proposed to marry another young lady, for whom he appears to have had no serious affection, and who refused him.

The history of his marriage some years later is characteristic. A very few months after having proposed to a girl of sixteen, by whom he was rejected, he became engaged to Mary Todd, a brilliant young lady, belonging to an old and distinguished family. There appears to have been little

love on either side; it was a matter partly of promises, partly of ambitions. The marriage was to take place on the 1st of January, 1841. All was ready, but no bridegroom appeared, and the guests at last quietly dispersed, leaving the wedding supper untouched. At daybreak Lincoln was at last found, "restless, gloomy, miserable, desperate." His friends, "fearing a tragic termination, watched him closely in their rooms day and night." In a few weeks he began to improve, and he wrote to a friend: "I am now the most miserable man living. If what I feel were equally distributed to the whole human family, there would not be one cheerful face on earth. Whether I shall ever be better I cannot tell—I awfully forbode I shall not. To remain as I am is impossible. I must die, or be better, as it appears to me." At this time he wrote and published a paper on suicide. The marriage would never have taken place if it had not been for the intervention of a diplomatic lady who brought the couple together again, and two years later, "as pale and trembling as if being driven to slaughter," Lincoln was at last married to Mary Todd. When dressing for the wedding an innocent little boy asked him where he was going. "To hell, I suppose," he replied. However unhappy the marriage may have been, Mr. Herndon holds that much of Lincoln's success was due to his wife, as well because of her acuteness and ambition as because her conduct drove him from the house and induced him to take a greater interest in politics. After his death she developed many eccentricities, and appears to have died insane.

Much interesting information is given concerning Lincoln's personal appearance, showing that he was physically of a distinctly low type of organization, such as is usually associated with some degree of hereditary degeneration. "His feet and hands were large, arms and legs long and in striking contrast with his slender trunk and small head." His height was 6ft. 4in., and he could throw a cannon ball farther than anyone in New Salem. He attributed this to the great length of his arms. He was lean, and remarkably ungainly in figure and movement—"the ungodliest figure I ever saw," as someone described him. He was thin through the chest and stooped slightly. Apart from the sad, pained look of his wrinkled face, there was no fixed or characteristic expression. His complexion was a dark yellow, his eyes were small and grey, with a sad, dreamy expression; his hair was almost black, nose asymmetrical,

cheekbones high and prominent; ears large and standing out from the head almost at right angles. The head ran backwards, the forehead rising at a low angle; diameter of head (measured apparently from hat) from ear to ear,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  ins.; antero-posteriorly, 8 ins.; the jaws were long. His voice, especially when he began a speech, was shrill, piping, and unpleasant. He suffered much from his liver and constipation. His most prominent characteristic was melancholy. It was said of him: "I thought then, and think now, that I never saw so gloomy and melancholy a face in my life."

Although Lincoln's mind was keenly analytical, and he was (as Mr. Herndon for the first time conclusively shows) a thorough-going free-thinker, he was at the same time very superstitious and fetichistic. When his son was bitten by a mad dog he took him to a mad-stone. He attached great importance to dreams. After his election in 1860 he saw a double image of himself in a mirror. He always said, "I am sure I shall meet with some terrible end." The end came on the 14th April, 1865.

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*Differences in the Nervous Organisation of Man and Woman: Physiological and Pathological.* By HARRY CAMPBELL, M.D., B.S.(Lond.). London: H. K. Lewis, 1891 (pp. 388).

This interesting essay is written in Dr. Campbell's usual thoughtful and suggestive, though not always very conclusive, manner. It covers a considerably larger field than the title indicates, for the writer found as he went on that the subject broadened out in many directions. The early chapters (dealing with the evolution of sex and containing a critical account of the views of Weissmann, Geddes and Thomson, etc.) and the concluding chapters (dealing with the intellect, emotions, and will) are, indeed, of a speculative character, and have a rather remote connection with the subject. Dr. Campbell urges, however, that "it is impossible to study any question from too many points of view, and that the wider our survey the more thorough our knowledge and the deeper our insight are likely to be in the end." He criticizes with an open mind, and his conclusions, so far as he arrives at any, have an independent value. A guarded adhesion is given to Weismann's doctrine of the non-inheritance of acquired characters, and it is asserted that we shall eventually have to accept "the view