Early Clinical Psychology
Lightner Witmer

- Lightner Witmer (June 28, 1867 – July 19, 1956) was an American psychologist who is credited with the introduction of the term "Clinical Psychology." Witmer also founded the world's first "Psychological Clinic" in the United States at the University of Pennsylvania in 1896.

- Witmer contributed greatly to numerous branches of psychology including school psychology and clinical psychology. He also contributed to the development of the field of special education. Little is known about Witmer's life. He is described as being an introverted person who limited the information he shared about his personal life.
Early history of mental illness

- Basic issue: no outward signs of injury or illness – strange or bizarre behavior with no visible cause

- Trephination – cutting holes in the skull to let evil spirits out

- Primitive cultures used other supernatural cures
- Early Greeks performed ceremonies to please the gods so they would leave the individual alone
This solution solved two problems:

- People feared he was mentally ill for two reasons:
  - 1. Their strange behavior scared people
  - 2. People were scared they could develop these bizarre behaviors

- Solution became these people voluntarily consorted with the devil

- They need to be executed so they won’t hurt others
Philosophy Of Pinel

1. Do no harm – ended bloodletting, whirling, etc.
2. Use minimal restraint necessary – least restrictive environment needed to maintain safety and order
3. Provide humane conditions
4. Eliminate physical abuse
5. These people are sick not criminals
6. Most important for psychology – not all illnesses had biological causes
Two basic issues split the psychoanalysis's

- 1. biological sex drive as the driving force behind all human behavior and development
- The relationship between the id and the ego
  - Freud – the id is the master and the ego is a slave to id and superego
  - Dissenters objected to the slave-master relationship
Freud’s legacy

- While his theories have been criticized and many have been rejected, they served as a basis for thought discussion and development of new theories.

- A major force in psychiatry from 1910 -1930.

- Rise of the Nazis did much to reduce his impact as did his personality.