

THE FORECAST

A Popular Journal of Scientific Prediction

EDITED BY SEPHARIAL

Vol. II
No. 5

SPRING 1907

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CONTENTS

**NOTES OF THE QUARTER
THE KINGSTON EARTHQUAKE
STUDIES IN BRIEF**

**THE SHAH OF PERSIA
PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT
THE WESTBOURNE GROVE TRAGEDY**

**ASTROLOGY AND THE RELIGIOUS IDEA
THE "BERLIN" DISASTER
THE WEATHER**

MARKET FORECASTS

STOCKS AND SHARES

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CASUAL CAUSERIE**

**THE NEW SESSION
THE WOOLWICH EXPLOSION
THE EARTH'S DARK SATELLITE
HELIOCENTRICS**

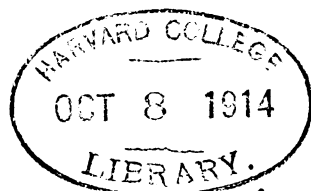
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HORSE-RACING AND ASTROLOGY (II)
ASTROLOGY IN PRACTICE
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THE FORECAST

A Popular Journal of Scientific Prediction

Edited by SEPHARIAL

Notes of the Quarter

IN opening our second year of publication with this issue of THE FORECAST, several new features will be added to our pages. It is sufficiently obvious that the student is entitled to something more than a bald statement of the astrological values of current celestial phenomena, and it is to be hoped he will find some of his needs satisfied in the course of the present volume. Some share of our efforts must be of an instructional character, in order to meet the requirements of those whose interest in our vaticinations incites to further knowledge. The claim that Astrology has a verifiable scientific basis is best sustained by the dissemination of its principles in such form as will enable the reader to apply them in a concrete instance and judge for himself. There is a great deal too much so-called Astrology written in the air, wholly incapable of verification; and however theoretically sound it may appear, it is not the kind of teaching which is likely to appeal to the real student, nor is it of a nature to add anything to the usefulness or dignity of the science.

A correspondent in the *Daily Mirror* recently suggested that a mark of public recognition should be conferred on Professor Milne, for his valuable services in connection with Seismology. His invention of the seismograph, which records the extent, intensity and direction of an earthquake, is undoubtedly a matter of genuine scientific value, but it seems to me to fall short of anything in the nature of a public service. But the man who can *predict* the date and place of a shock is really in a position to claim public recognition to the extent of his success. After many years of careful observation, the former Editor of *Zadkiel's Almanac*, Commander Morrison, R.N., formulated a code of Rules for Predicting Earthquakes, which on application prove to be very reliable, and, so far as they apply to Eclipse positions, are found to be correct in nine cases out of ten. And in this connection it is certainly curious

how persistently eclipses of the luminaries give rise to speculations as to the cause of earthquakes.

The Kingston disaster is a case in point. It followed immediately on the heels of the Solar Eclipse of 14th January, the conjoined luminaries being in the zenith of Longitude $87^{\circ} 12'$ E. and Lat. (*circa*) 21° S. Consequently the lunation would be in the Nadir of $90^{\circ} 48'$ W., and Lat. 21° N. Hence there was a direct line of influence between the luminaries and the area of disturbance. Elsewhere some special notes on the connection between electrical energy and planetary action may help to explain the relations of earthquakes and eclipses.

The terrific disturbance at Kingston set the public press agog on the connection between earthquakes and epidemics, mental disturbances and similar physiological effects. In one instance a correspondent tells how suicidal mania was experienced by her whenever an earthquake was about to happen. "This has occurred several times," she says, "and I have never had the feeling when there has not been an earthquake." Another ingenious correspondent suggests a comparison of lunacy records and volcanic eruptions. Evidently more than a suspicion of the truth that man and nature are not things apart, is gaining access to certain minds. Later it will dawn upon the world that Nature is a bigger thing than we commonly make of it, and that our little planet is linked up with all other components of the Solar system, and this system with others, *via* our luminary, in such manner as to bring man individually and collectively into more or less direct relations with the whole Cosmos. Then a scientific man with a reputation to lose, will hazard the suggestion that there is "nothing unscientific" in the suggested connection between electrical phenomena and planetary influence, and between eclipses of the luminaries and seismic disturbances. It really will not matter what new name may be given to the body of knowledge which inevitably will spring from the original luminous suggestion. Urania will not deny her offspring. The question is whether the offspring will recognize its mother! It will, however, remain to the credit of astrologers pure and simple, that they consistently have upheld what of the truth they could discern, despite the ignorance and prejudice arrayed against them.

All the ignorance is not, however, to be found in quarters where one would naturally look for it. Only the other day a

leaderette writer in a notable daily paper deduced from my study of Mr. Beerbohm Tree's horoscope that all persons born on the same day as the famous actor-manager should have followed the dramatic profession. The writer could have learned on reference to a small shilling primer of Astrology that in order for two or more persons born on the same day to manifest the same tendencies, they must be born : (1) in the same place, (2) at the same hour. But in order that these tendencies may have the same facility of development and expression, there must be : (a) the same heredity, (b) the same environment. Thus we come to the interesting question of the likeness of twins, which has often been commented upon, and by nobody more effectively than Sir Francis Galton. But even here we must dig deeper if we would understand the differences of individuality underlying the apparent similarity of persons. There are radical differences of function and aptitude between conovate and biovate twins. This physiological distinction has its corresponding psychological value, which the astrologer cannot afford to overlook. It shows, however, that the science of Astrology is not the superficial affair the popular journalist imagines it to be.

Speculation appears to be a radical component of human nature. From the "casting lots" of ancient days to modern "punting," is a direct and continuous line of the exercise of this ineradicable trait of character. When the son of Virasena gambled away his kingdom in the days of the Māhābhārat, he was actuated by the same spirit of speculation that induces the man in the street to put his last half-crown upon the special "Nap" of an irresponsible journalist. The publication of *Horse-racing and Astrology* in our last issue has brought this fact very much home to me. I find people of practically no means at all willing to place their small savings with me for "safe things" of my own selection. I have had to inform them that I am not open to agency of this sort. My province is to develop the practical possibilities of Astrology, and those of my readers who wish for a detailed statement of any of the systems formulated for the purpose of reducing odds against the layer, or, in other words, of narrowing the field of speculation, can have their needs supplied on application. Needless to say there has been some demand in this direction already, but while fully competent to make an illustrated statement of any system extant, I cannot hold myself responsible for their defects. I am, however, in a position to affirm that my own recently-developed

system is capable of all I claim for it, and for some time at all events it will remain unpublished. I hold that it is at once the simplest and most effective statement of the law of probability, astrologically considered, that has yet been discovered; that it reveals at once the specific horses which have any chance of winning; indicates the relative chances of these selected or "tipped" horses, and specifically brings out the *winner* in a full 75 per cent. of handicaps. In response to the importunities of my correspondents, I have decided to give something in the nature of a general test of the system, and therefore all who are interested in this line of astrologic research may communicate with me and learn the conditions which I propose to observe. Elsewhere in these pages some notes of interest will be found in reference to another form of speculation which has thousands of votaries, and, I may add, thousands of victims also. I refer to Roulette, so much in vogue at Monte Carlo.

I see that there are more "Mirrors" claiming Eastern origin than the useful little article I have placed upon the market. Some of these run up to as much as four guineas in price, and ought, at all events, to look well for that superlative figure. I have not tested them, and cannot say what claim they may have to consideration; but from long use I am bound to say that size bears no practical relations to utility. The larger the Mirror in diameter the longer the focus must be, if the lens is of the correct curvature; so that while a large lens is useful for séances where the scryer or seer sits with others at a distance from the Mirror, the smaller article has the advantage that it can be held in the hand and so be continually galvanized from the only source which is effective, namely, the seer's own magnetism. Point for point the "Richard Burton" magnetic mirror is undoubtedly the most serviceable, efficient and reliable instrument as yet produced. It is also the cheapest. It is cheaper even than the useless non-odylic glass balls offered for the purpose of seership at prices which are altogether extortionate.

I am glad to note that a number of my readers have availed themselves of the opportunity to test Minetta's telepathic and divinatory powers, with most satisfactory results. I have found in the course of my astrological studies that the planet Neptune is always a conspicuous factor in the horoscopes of successful "mediums"—using the term to include all those who exercise the divinatory faculty in one or another of its many phases. A close study of many remarkable subjects of Neptune leads me to

the conclusion that we should hesitate to mark down as frauds all those whose exercise of a faculty we do not understand may now and then fall short of what would satisfy a scientific test. When we understand these psychological things more intimately we may possibly utilize them to wider and greater advantage.

One of the residual effects of the transit of the mysterious planet Neptune through the sign Cancer and its recent opposition to the planet Uranus, has been the appearance in Glasgow's township, ruled by the sign Cancer, of the insidious plague of "spotted fever." From Glasgow it appears to have spread to other northern towns, claiming victims every day, and baffling the most experienced of physicians both as to its origin and treatment. The fact that it is diagnosed as cerebro-spinal meningitis brings it at once under the category of ailments included within the range of the cardinal and tropical signs of the Zodiac. If any of my correspondents can supply me with the date of authentic cases of this disease, giving the date and time of birth of the victims, I shall be glad to make some study of the indications attending it, which in effect may be the means of adding a note of considerable utility to astrological pathology.

I shall be very much obliged to any of my readers who will kindly lend or give away their old copies of THE FORECAST to friends who have not yet seen it. While on the one hand I have received many encouraging letters expressing approval of the journal, I regret to say that others have written me to the effect that they had heard THE FORECAST was dead, and I have been at some trouble to make it evident to them that the report was false. It is an old publishing trick to kill Quarterlies by repeating once every month that the journal "has not appeared." THE FORECAST is at present a Quarterly and will continue to be so for the ensuing year, but it may be found convenient next year to respond to the general request for its monthly appearance. Our next issue will be in June. Publishers please note.

The Kingston Earthquake

THE year 1906 was remarkable for two great earthquakes, one at San Francisco, the other at Valparaiso, both of which we have seen to have been directly connected with the position of the luminaries at Ecliptic conjunction and opposition. In May 1902 a total Eclipse of the Sun immediately over Martinique was followed by an eruption of Mont Pelée, and an earthquake which totally destroyed St. Pierre. The Moon was then at Perigee, *i. e.* at a point in its orbit when it was nearest the Earth. The gravitational pull of the luminaries upon the Earth was then almost at the maximum, which happens when the luminaries are both in perigee at the conjunction. This fact was noticed in more than one scientific quarter, and found expression in the daily press.

Of the same nature as the above-mentioned Ecliptic conjunction was that of the 14th January, 1907, when the Moon was close to the perigee. The same day a terrific earthquake devastated Kingston, and was followed by fire and landslide. Two days later (16th January) dispatches from Rome report that violent earthquake shock was experienced at Casamicciola (Ischia), the town at the foot of Mont Epomeo, which in July 1883 was practically destroyed by an earthquake, over seventeen hundred lives being lost. Shocks were felt also at Bayerne, Basle and Juras, accompanied by avalanches, "about the same time as the disaster

at Kingston," according to news received from Geneva.

Taken in connection with the Eclipse of the Sun on the same date, this disaster at Kingston is very significant from an astrological point of view. The lunation fell on the meridian of 91° East and 89° West, the luminaries having declination (*circa*) 21° South. A little East of Calcutta, in Lat. 21° South, the luminaries would be overhead at the time, and at Yucatan would be immediately underfoot.

It is probable that this latter was the geographical centre of the disturbance which so seriously affected the island of Jamaica. Geological considerations might determine why one locality and not another in the area of direct influence should be affected; but it is within the domain of scientific astrology alone to determine the periods of these great disturbances. Of the connection between earthquakes, violent storms, tidal waves, etc., and planetary combinations, there can be no shadow of doubt.

When we come to examine the celestial conditions obtaining immediately before the Kingston earthquake, the validity of this statement will be sufficiently apparent. In 1906, Uranus and Neptune, the two most distant bodies of the Solar system, came into opposition on February 28th, and again on the 8th May. On the 19th April, when Uranus and Neptune were yet within 1° of an exact opposition, the planet Mercury became stationary in

exact quadrature to the opposed planets, and the earthquake at San Francisco took place. The preceding total Eclipse of the Moon was on the meridian of the affected area. The total Eclipse of 4th August was accompanied by the disaster at Valparaiso.

Following the opposition of Uranus and Jupiter in December last was the Eclipse of Sun on the 14th January, and this was preceded by the following remarkable aspects of Mercury to the involved planets :

- 9th Jan. Mercury opposition Jupiter.
- 13th „ Mercury conjunct Uranus.
- 14th „ Mercury opposition Neptune.

Thus, as in the disaster of San Francisco we find the volatile planet in exact configuration with the line of planetary influence set up between three of the major bodies, and the gravitational pull of the luminaries in each case assisting in the production of great seismic effects.¹ On the 1st of February following the opposition of Neptune to Uranus is completed for the third time. Astrologically considered it would have been singular had such a concatenation of planetary combinations been without accompanying disasters in the sublunary world.

I have been exercising my mind for some little time past in regard to the *modus operandi* of Ecliptic influence in the production of Earthquakes. Despite the fact that some great disturbances have occurred immediately after eclipses in close accord with Morrison's dictum that "earthquakes follow closely upon the heels of eclipses," only a very little research is needed to establish the fact that the magnitude of the disaster bears

no direct relation to: (1) the magnitude of the eclipse; (2) the proximity of the luminaries to the earth. I have sufficiently shown this in my enquiry into "The probable cause of earthquakes and violent storms." Many of the greatest disasters have followed eclipses whereat the \odot was in apogee or near it. The ideal eclipses for purposes of observation would be those of the Sun when in the beginning of Capricorn, the Moon being in perigee; and those of the Moon in Capricorn at apogee, the Sun being in Cancer. These would be the points of greatest and least gravitational influence of the eclipsed luminaries. Such phenomena could no doubt be found, and would help in solving the problem of "tidal influence" presumed to have place in these seismic effects. It is a fact that tidal waves frequently attend earthquake shocks, and that both results are due to the ecliptic conjunction of the luminaries.

But apart from the matter of gravity—a mere label, I admit, covering a vast gap in scientific research—there is presumably an electrical explanation to many of the phenomena under consideration.

Mr. H. S. Green, well known as a thoughtful and ingenious student of sidereal influence, has pointed out that "astrologers do not take into account the question whether two heavenly bodies are approaching or receding from each other along an imaginary line directly connecting the two, whereas if planetary influence is at all analogous to the electrical, as it probably is, the matter is of great importance. If a wire through which a current is passing is made alternately to approach and recede from another wire

*

¹ See also *Occult Review*, Feb. 1907, p. 66.

running parallel to it, an induced current will spring up in the second wire flowing in one direction during the approach, and in the opposite direction during the recession. When the Moon is at its perigee it is, of course, just at the turning point between approach and recession, a critical position which may very likely have a significance of its own, apart from the fact that gravitation is then at its strongest."

I consider the observation to be of considerable scientific value as well as of great importance to Astrology. It is, of course, only in the nature of an analogy, but its significance is none the less important. The suggestion cannot be applied to the elliptical orbits of the celestial bodies, for they do not lie in parallel planes, but it may very well be applied to the sphere of influence radiated by electrical action from the earth's body in relation to the apparent orbits of the planets in their geocentric revolutions, in the course of which they are sometimes approaching and sometimes receding from the earth and one another. The

suggestion certainly merits fullest consideration. It appears to me, however, that the abscission of the Solar or Lunar rays must be followed by an entire or partial stagnation in the electrical condition of the earth's atmosphere. This would create a corresponding uprush of electrical energy and heat from the interior of the earth in order to restore the equilibrium, and in consequence there would be a tremendous shrinkage of the interior parts of the earth's crust, followed by violent shocks of earthquake. Presuming, as we reasonably may, that this cooling down and shrinkage of the earth is in the normal condition of things, we can account for some thirty thousand tremors of the earth in the course of an average year of the earth's existence, but for great disturbances of the nature of those experienced within recent years at Martinique, Dharmasala, San Francisco, Valparaiso, and Kingston, we must refer to the accentuating influence of planetary configurations acting in conjunction with Solar and Lunar eclipses.

SEPHARIAL.

Studies in Brief

THE SHAH OF PERSIA

MUZAFFER-ED-DIN was the second son of Nasr-ed-din, who was assassinated on the 1st May, 1896. He was born on the 25th March, 1853, and succeeded to the throne on the day of his father's death, and was crowned on 8th June following. At his birth the planet Jupiter was in the sign Sagittarius in trine aspect with Mercury, and from published photographs I think it probable that Jupiter was rising at the time of birth. This fortunate affiliation of the intellectual significator (Mercury) with Jupiter, shows a fruitful and resourceful mind and a sound judgment. The conjunction of Mars and Venus in the sign Pisces conferred a genial and convivial nature, and a fondness for the society of women and children. It is reported that his love of children was such that they had their own way with him at all times, played with his priceless jewels as with toys of tin and tinsel, usurped his attention in face of manifold duties, and drew him into their games and gambols by the subtle fascination they exercised over him. With the Sun and Moon in opposition from cardinal signs it was impossible that he could escape being swept before the onward march of social evolution. He signed a rescript in August 1906, which gave to Persia a National Council composed of representatives from all grades of Persian society, from Princes of the Kingdom to common tradesmen. Thus he became a reformer of great historical importance, despite his personal belief that the country was not ripe for electoral representation. Like all the legitimates of Persian monarchy he traced his descent from Japhet, the son of Noah. He followed the custom of his predecessors in his observance of polygamy, and had in all sixty-nine wives. His death, which took place at 10 p.m. on the 8th January, 1907, is, from an astrological point of view, obscured by the fact of the birth-hour being unknown. He was succeeded at his death by his eldest son, Mohammed Ali Mirza, who was born on 24th July, 1872. At his birth Mars was opposed to Saturn from the cardinal signs Capricorn and Cancer. While a good sportsman, in the sense that he is vigorous and willing to take great risks, it is certain he can be autocratic and even cruel.

The Sun is with Uranus in the beginning of Leo, which is threatening in regard to the stability of the kingdom, but the Sun is also conjoined with Venus and Jupiter, which makes him extraordinarily successful and fortunate in his affairs. The Moon, as moderator of all celestial influence, tends to reconcile his native spirit to the ways of men by its sextile aspect to Saturn and trine aspect to Mars, thus mitigating the otherwise too forceful expression of a radically passionate nature. The

majority of the planets being in "fixed" signs will confer great firmness of character and self-reliance. The expression of a radically beneficent and royal disposition, indicated by the Sun with Jupiter and Venus in Leo, will be enhanced by the liberal education and thorough training which the new monarch acquired as European student and Governor-General of the province of Azerbaijan. His horoscope gives indications of great affluence, fine intellectual qualities, a strongly vital and passionate nature, and probability of long life. I am disposed to think that during his reign Persia will form some important alliances with European powers. The Lion of Persia will dominate Western Asia with the same magnificence and strength as in the days of Nasr-ed-din.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

THE President of the United States of America was born on the 27th October, 1858, at about 11 o'clock a.m., near New York, according to information received from an American correspondent. He has the Sun at birth in conjunction with Mercury, and both in trine aspect to the Moon, which accounts for his successful fight to position and power in the world, and with the planet Mars dominant in the Ascendant of the Horoscope, in Capricornus, the sign of its exaltation, his fighting powers are bound to be conspicuous. With four planets in flexed signs, he is a man capable of playing many parts and of evincing a variety of moods, his powers of adaptation to environment being no small factor in the measure of his success with men and matters.

At the present time the Sun has just passed the conjunction with Venus, and is now in square to Neptune and applying to the sextile of Mars and the sesquiquadrature of Saturn. Hence there will be danger to some member of the family about May or September of this year, but in all affairs of state and in contentions of whatsoever sort, whether political or legislative, the President will carry his point without loss of prestige. Not until the summer of 1909 are there any indications of a diminishing popularity, nor any indications that his political opponents can effectively assail him with any advantage to themselves, or their cause. But in that and the following year, and onwards to the Spring of 1911, there will be some reversal of fortunes, many obstacles, severe losses, danger of ill-health and loss of position. But with such a fortunate horoscope to start with, there is little danger of such ills being of great magnitude or enduring nature, and at fifty-three years of age some further political successes will be achieved by him.

THE WESTBOURNE GROVE TRAGEDY

HENRY GEORGE RAYNER, who now lies in hospital from the effects of attempted suicide, following the murder of William Whiteley under such dramatic circumstances, was born on the 17th April, 1879, at Teddington.

At the present time he is in his twenty-eighth year of life ; and the Sun, which at birth was in the 27th degree of Aries, has progressed to the 24th degree of Taurus. On January 24th, the day of the tragedy, Mars entered the 24th degree of the opposite sign, Scorpio. The Sun by direction was in semisquare to Saturn in the sign Aries, and approaching the square of Uranus. These are sinister influences. Reference to the Ephemeris of the 24th January, 1907, also shows Saturn in Pisces $12^{\circ} 33'$, where he is exactly in semisquare aspect to the place of the Sun and Mercury at the birth, another gloomy portent of the depression of fortunes under which the mental balance was disturbed.

At the anniversary of 17th April, 1906, we find Mercury (the mental ruler) in quadrature to Neptune and in semisquare to Mars, the latter planet being in that fatal 23rd degree of Taurus to which the Sun had progressed 27 days (years) after birth ! It is also seen that the Sun is in semisquare to Saturn.

It is just worth note that the anniversary fell close to the date of the great San Francisco earthquake, and practically the same conditions obtained as at the seismic upheaval, the chief factors being the opposition of Neptune to Uranus, energized by a quadrate aspect of Mercury (stationary) to both planets.

Enough evidence was published prior to the tragedy for which Rayner will be held responsible, to show that earthquakes have a remarkable physiological effect on certain individuals of peculiar nervous constitution, and I have elsewhere cited an instance of suicidal mania affecting such an one. If one, why not others also, and more especially such as were born on or near the date when the affected luminary is in the same longitude (place in the ecliptic) as at their nativity ?

I hold no brief for the homicide, but I do not distinguish between one who is driven to self-destruction under seismic influence and another who is by the same influence infested with the desire to murder. Neither is it an easy thing to discriminate between the Earth and the Earth-born in matters which are either physical or physiological.

Without the hour of birth it is not possible to go further in our astrological enquiry into this strange case, but enough has been cited to show that there were elements of danger in the air when this unfortunate man began his fateful career.

Astrology and the Religious Idea

Thou art the Cause Supreme of Life,
 The hidden Good in every ill,
 Which even they who live in strife
 Do serve with an unconscious will.
La vie des choses—SILVESTRE.

SOONER or later the thinking mind, convinced by experience of the truth of Astrology, pulls up in front of the dead wall of Fatalism with something of a shock. The question does not trouble the average mind, which finds hard thinking a task altogether too unprofitable to indulge in very often or for long together. The ready-made article which can be sold for hard cash on the market is more to its liking than the patient, toilsome task of weaving the fabric of thought into something consistent and symmetrical, full of design, and durable. But the study of Astrology induces to thought, and a very little acquaintance with what are known as arcs of Direction, from which the events of life are signified with mathematical precision, and predicted with more or less success, serves to convince one that the argument from Design has more in its favour than the majority, ignorant of the facts of Astrology, are willing to admit. The old Platonic dictum that "God geometrizes" is borne out as much in the events of human life, both individual and collective, as in the

law of crystallization, or the constitution of the Solar System. There is, as one astute American scientist has affirmed, a law of correlated successiveness which gives rise to the wider action of periodicity. Admitted that this correlation, this successiveness, this periodicity is not in the things themselves, not in the events, but only in our minds regarding them, as all Law must ever be, it is no valid ground for a negation of universal Design. When we come to discover the fact that the law of periodicity, of correlated successiveness, is but the outcome of planetary motion, the universe takes on a new aspect; our purview of life undergoes a change. Something in the nature of an earthquake, shaking the structure of our thought to its very foundations, happens for every man when he seriously pushes home to its legitimate conclusion this fundamental fact of planetary action in human life, examined, tested and proved! It is a matter of small consequence in the evolution of the individual soul that it is momentarily driven on to the barren rock of a spiritual negation. The reaction of the mind is a thing to be counted upon. It is not a condition which endures. Action and reaction are equal and opposite,

and the wave which sweeps a man off his feet may well land him again high and dry upon *terra firma*. The mind cannot long rest in a negative state. Thought fastens its hold tightly upon the new thing, and planetary action must have a *raison d'être* which is not to be found in the planets themselves. The plumb sinks deeper as the string of thought runs to its limit, and somewhere, sooner or later, it touches solid ground. One who has thus taken his bearings is never likely to be dismayed in face of even the most terrible of afflictions. "Thy will be done on earth as in the heavens," voices at once his intellectual consent to universal law and his spiritual submission to the Divine Will. Free will for him lies not in the supposed ability of man to create events, but rather in his mental and spiritual attitude in relation to any set of circumstances of which he may be required to avail himself; not in the supposed choice of action, but in non-attachment to the fruits of action. Not far removed from this is the standpoint of the pure Idealist of whom Emerson says: "The Idealist views the world in God. He sees the whole circle of events, of persons and things, not as painfully accumulated, act after act, atom by atom, in an age creeping past; but as one vast scene painted on the instant eternity by the hand of God, for the eternal contemplation of the human soul."

Assuredly the attitude of the

astrologer towards the complex problem of human life is finally more consistent and intelligent than that of one who arrogates to himself unlimited freedom of will, sees only fortuitous coincidence in the various relationships of daily life and the intervention of a special Providence in good or ill fortune. For the astrologer, at all events, life does not bear the appearance of a jumble sale, nor is individual fortune in the nature of a lottery. For him everything at all times is guided by a special Providence, but it is not a Providence which acts outside and independently of established laws. The Power which acts now or at any point of time to bring about certain events was in operation from the foundation of the Universe, and found expression in the evolution of the celestial bodies, in the appointing of their orbits and the marking off of time by their motions, in the evolution of their teeming life, and finally in the endowing of the human mind with definite laws of thought. The power that is concerned in bringing together individuals of affinity, is that same Providence which compounded the elements of the planets and endowed them with specific virtues, so by their conjunctions and oppositions to bring about definite phenomena in the world at determined times. Everything is law and order, the bodying forth of an Universal Intelligence. Nothing happens by chance.

And seeing these things to be

so, the astrologer knows that every man is just where he ought to be, where in fact he must needs be, at any point in time. Moral responsibility, merit and demerit, hold direct and continual relations with personal experience and individual welfare. They are not things of circumstance, accidental to the person, but inherent qualities incidental to the soul. The ancient Vedantic notion of the *Sutrâtma*, or Thread-soul, which like a silver wire passes through the various coloured beads of human personality in one incarnation after another, crudely illustrates the persistence of the individual, the impermanence of the personality, and the detachment of one from another of them. And if, further, we consider the "silver cord" as

nothing other than a ray from the Divine Oversoul, a nervous filament let down into the exterior world for the purpose of gathering experience and of expressing will, and that every sentient creature is thus ensouled according to its place in the scale of life, a fuller meaning is given to the well-known lines :

We are but parts of one stupendous
whole,
Whose body Nature is, and God the
Soul !

This is the position to which the intelligent student of Astrology is inevitably led, and something of the Higher Fatalism will assuredly permeate the religious idea of the future.

SEPHARIAL.

The "Berlin" Disaster

THE appalling disaster to the Great Eastern Railway Company's steamer *Berlin* on the morning of Thursday, 21st February, is the most terrible calamity which has happened to British shipping for many years past. The details are so well known at this date as to need no repetition here, but it may be of

interest to note that at the preceding lunation of the 12th February, the planet Mercury (general significator of the "winged messengers") was exactly setting on the horizon of London in quadrature to Mars, while on the day of the disaster Mercury was exactly conjoined with Saturn in the watery sign Pisces.

A Complete Dictionary of Astrology

IN WHICH
EVERY TECHNICAL AND ABSTRUSE TERM
BELONGING TO THE SCIENCE IS MINUTELY AND CORRECTLY
EXPLAINED

With Illustrations

COMPRISING
THE ONLY RATIONAL METHOD OF CALCULATING NATIVI-
TIES, ACCORDING TO THE PLACIDIAN SYSTEM
THE WHOLE ART OF BRINGING UP DIRECTIONS, BOTH
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
THE JUDGMENT OF REVOLUTIONS, PROGRESSIONS, IN-
GRESSES, TRANSITS, AND LUNATIONS EMBOLISMIC OR
QUADRATE
THE DOCTRINE OF HORARY QUESTIONS COMPLETE

BY
JAMES WILSON, Esq., PHILOMATH

WITH PREFACE AND NOTES BY
SEPHARIAL

LONDON
PHILIP WELLBY
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1907

PREFACE

TO WILSON'S DICTIONARY OF ASTROLOGY

BY SEPHARIAL

THE present edition of James Wilson's ingenious and capable work is undertaken solely on account of its general utility to the student of the ancient science of horoscopy, and out of regard to the fact that copies of the original work have now become extremely scarce and valuable. The edition from which these pages are reproduced, is dated about the year A.D. 1817 by a note of the bookseller, but from certain horoscopical figures included in the work, it is certain that it was not published before 1820. The date of its publication, however, is of no great importance to the student, whose chief interest will be in regard to its subject matter.

The Dictionary is presumed to include every technical term in use among astrologers, with definitions and illustrations. The terms are arranged in alphabetical order, and their elucidation in many instances extends over several pages. There are frequent cross references, so that the student may enter the work under one or another heading with the same point of inquiry. Such technical errors as have crept into the original work have as far as possible been eliminated in the present edition, and some forty or more errata noted by the author have been corrected. So far as the original is concerned, therefore, it is to be hoped that this edition will represent it at its best, and do credit to the author.

The editorial which I have undertaken extends to the paragraphs in brackets which bear my initial. In these

iv

PREFACE

I have sought to further elucidate such points as seem unnecessarily obscure or inadequate in their treatment, and where experience justifies I have ventured to state my reasons for objecting to the definitions or statements of the author under certain heads.

The experienced astrologer will not go far with Wilson without discovering that there are many things against which he inveighs that are found upon experiment to have a basis in truth, and others which he includes as beyond question which certainly have no greater claim to serious attention than many of the things he passes by as fanciful. This habit of mind, while showing a discriminating and truth-seeking spirit, a tendency to hug mathematical criteria and to spurn anything having the appearance of superstition, indicates a degree of haste ill-suited to the exposition of a subject which, from the average point of view, is problematical and in need of proof from first to last. It must be confessed that there are in astrology certain principles which would not appear to have any other justification than that of empirical knowledge, but which nevertheless fit into the scheme of things with an exactness which can only be accounted for on the supposition that they form part of a comprehensive plan in the unfoldment of human life, and however fanciful they may appear to be, have only to be tested to be found true. In this respect I cannot but think that had Wilson had more regard to the fact that the whole universe is but a symbol, and that astrology is primarily symbolical and not entirely mathematical, he would have enjoyed a better intuitive perception of those unexplored areas of astrology which his reason did not compass, and which either from lack of opportunity or disinclination he neglected to examine. Nevertheless, the service done to the science by the production of the Dictionary is very considerable, and a more handy work of reference it would be difficult to find. It is therefore to be hoped that the publication of this annotated edition, which has been undertaken at considerable expense, will meet with due recognition by all sincere students of the age-old science of Astrology.

SEPHARIAL.

PREFACE

If I had any motive more prominent than the rest (beyond promoting the cause of truth, which, I trust, will always be the principal) for publishing this work, it was a desire to injure those harpies who gather together scarce books of science, and hide them from the perusal of mankind, merely for the sake of gain, which, after all, can be but trifling. Men like these are the enemies of knowledge, and ought to be severely punished in every civilized nation. This treatise will render most of their hoards comparatively useless, for I have been careful to insert the substance of all they contain, whether true or false (adding occasionally some remarks of my own to distinguish the latter as far as I am able), that every student may be enabled to found his own conviction on his own experience.

The System of Directions, both Primary and Secondary, I flatter myself, will be found peculiarly useful, for they are plain, and may be comprehended in a moment. They comprize the entire system of Placidus, not only as to Directions, but of Progressions, Transits, Ingresses, and Lunations.

In this work no system has been wholly rejected on account of its evident falsehood and absurdity, but all are included, investigated, and explained.

The most prominent parts are selected from the works of Ptolemy and Placidus, the first being the founder of most or all the systems at present known, and the latter is universally admitted to have been the most scientific and rational of all Ptolemy's successors. I have therefore been careful to include all his opinions, which may be done without great difficulty in a small compass, as he was

a very circumlocutive author, who often took a page to describe what might have been compressed into half a dozen lines. His works, however, on the whole, are valuable, particularly his directions both primary and secondary, which I have here presented to the reader divested of their obscurity and difficulty.

The intention of this work is to render every point in astrology as plain and familiar as possible, that the science may be open to examination and experience, both in its genethliacal and horary departments, and that numbers may have an opportunity of applying themselves to the study of it, which is the only means of demonstrating the truth it contains.

As to the ridiculous idea, that it is sinful and presumptuous, none but a very ignorant person will entertain it for a moment. If astral observations were sinful, it would be criminal to foretell an eclipse, a change of weather, the time of high water, or even the time of day by a sun-dial. It is, on the contrary, sinful not to study this and every other thing the Almighty has allotted for instruction, and the ignorance of those who neglect to do this is their only excuse.

There is one great difficulty peculiar to astrological studies, which has hitherto retarded their progress considerably, and I fear will continue to do so for ages, namely, the want of proper materials. In all other sciences every thing necessary for practice or experiment can in general be readily procured, whereas proper nativities of persons born with any remarkable defect are seldom to be obtained. A chemist can make a thousand combinations at will, and a thousand experiments on each, whereas an astrologer might pass the period of his life without being able to make a single experiment in the way he could wish, and he might think himself extremely fortunate if he ever acquired six remarkable nativities, that were correctly taken, and the lives of the persons annexed to them. The time of a birth is seldom known beyond the hour, and if it be taken to minutes, the minute is almost sure to be incorrect. If a remarkable character be discovered, the birth of such a person is nearly as difficult to be obtained as the

PREFACE

vii

philosopher's stone. The time of conception cannot be expected, nor the time when the embryo quickened, and yet, doubtless, on these depend many, and perhaps most of those events, the causes whereof are sought in the radix. Instead, therefore, of wondering why so little is known relative to genethliacal astrology, we may well be surprized that any thing is known. It is not impossible, that the nature and fate of an animal are fixed long before it breathes the vital air, and although its separation must occasion considerable alteration, the birth is in all probability only a sympathetic event, depending on other antecedent circumstances, and particularly on the position and distance of the luminaries at the time of conception.

In horary questions I have laid down the plain fundamental rules from which an artist should judge, but his own practice will enable him by an adherence to these, to do this in a way peculiar to himself; for although these rules cannot with safety or propriety be altered, they are capable of many trifling improvements, which the student's practice will suggest to him, and which no one but himself can either feel or describe. He should never employ his art but for his own benefit, or that of his most confidential friends. In this case, he will have some additional assistance in his knowledge of their affairs, but in applying this he must be very cautious, and never quit his figure for a moment: if he abandon his science, it will abandon him. The knowledge of leading circumstances is only useful to enable him to judge of some abstruse parts of his scheme which otherwise would be unintelligible, but if he prefers his knowledge to his figure he is an impostor, and will soon feel the effects of his knavery and folly: for foresight will often err, but his figure never; and however prosperous the affairs of the querent may appear in his judgment, if the figure denote evil, that evil will surely arrive, to his disgrace and confusion. In other respects he may be apt to err through a weakness common to human nature, that of believing what we wish, and not seeing what we dread. He must guard against this as much as possible, and give every testimony its full force. It is useless to blink the evil, for if the figure declare it, it will certainly occur, and

the more he or his friends are prepared against it the better. Where mischief cannot be avoided, or where the knowledge of impending evil would greatly alarm the party, he should conceal his knowledge, and, if any good can be done, rather strengthen them by advice, than terrify them by predictions. Indeed, those are the wisest artists who keep their knowledge to themselves as much as possible: for they may serve their friends more effectually by concealing the source of their information.

I have here to apologize for sometimes using the terms "attraction" and "gravitation," as the reader will soon discover that I believe in neither: but they are terms generally understood, as when we say, the Sun rises or sets, although we know that he only appears and disappears by the Earth's motion, and under these circumstances we consider such expressions as innocent and convenient absurdities.

All that now remains, is to caution the reader against those shallow characters, who think by rule and judge by hearsay. Before he attempts to answer any of their objections, let him give them a date, and tell them to erect a figure to it, and bring up a direction or two. When he finds they know nothing of the matter, as he soon will, his best way will be to adopt the Pythagorean method of cure, and enjoin them silence until they do, and if they comply with this request, it will probably silence them for ever. Should he, however, be of a more mercurial turn, and fond of amusing himself with the absurdities of others, I know not where he could find better game, for, like Yorick, with all their sail, he'll not find them carry an ounce of ballast.

The most ignorant among them will be the most consistent, and consequently the most respectable; for, those who have acquired a tolerable share of learning will be found to have acquired self-sufficiency in an equal ratio, and they will be always ready to expose themselves if he hold up his finger. A number of these wiseacres, some of whom, to the disgrace of literature, were permitted to write for an encyclopedia, once took it in their heads, probably at the instigation of some wag, to settle at once

PREFACE

ix

the long disputed point, of whether the Moon had any influence on the weather or not: they had heard somewhere that the lunar influence was most conspicuous at the change or full, and it happening then to be near the change (which may in some degree account for their folly) they sallied forth with an almanack in one hand and a weather-glass in the other, to see what impression would be made in the latter, at the moment of conjunction. No doubt, they had predetermined to sell their prejudices as dear as possible, and to be convinced at no less price than some of those tremendous convulsions of nature which took place at the demolition of Friar Bacon's brazen head. Alas, and a welladay for astrology, the mercury remained stationary, not the smallest difference whatever could be perceived, the Moon was non-suited, and the jury returned in triumph, singing "*To Pean, Evoe Bacche?*"

I would engage for all I am worth, that any man should pitch upon the first rustic he met in the street, and upon explaining the case to him, if he made any experiment at all, it should be a more rational one than this. It would be useless to guess at what ideas such men could have of the manner in which the luminaries act upon the weather, because it is plain they had no ideas at all. Neither at the moment of the conjunction, nor for hours, nor even a day or two before, can the luminaries affect the atmosphere in any particular manner relating to such conjunction, and should a material change of weather happen, it must be owing to other causes. The luminaries operate on the weather two different ways: either by crossing or joining their influences. At the square they cross or impede each other at right angles, and this is the strongest opposition. As the angle becomes more acute, viz. as the Moon approaches the Sun, this opposition declines, and when they form an angle of 45 degrees, wholly ceases. A little before this time the change commences. The powers of the luminaries from being opposed to each other assume an opposite condition and become more conjunct. This will naturally cause a great shock in the atmosphere about the third day after the Moon has passed her second dichotome, when she forms her last sextile with the Sun and approaches

x

PREFACE

the semiquadrate, and a manifest change in consequence will be clearly perceptible. After this, the Moon still approaches the Sun, and their conjunctive power increases, but it increases gradually, and as its operation is almost uniform until the third day after the conjunction, the atmosphere can receive no shock, nor feel any convulsion, except from some different cause, no way relating to the conjunction. As to the opposition, it very seldom produces any remarkable effect on the atmosphere, which is the more strange, as its effect on the tides is the same. Until, however, the operation of the luminaries on the water can be removed, no man, however shallow, or however assuming, will ever be wholly able to sap the foundation of astrology. It will maintain its ground in defiance of their puny efforts, and in some future period, when reason becomes more the order of the day, it will acquire more popularity than ever.

I cannot conclude this preface without directing the reader's attention to the announcement of this work in the Monthly Magazine for May, 1819, which is accompanied by the following remark.

"We intreat the authors to reflect, that on the doctrine of chimeras any other key will foretell as accurately as the stars, and that on the mere chance, that any prognosticated event may happen, depends the entire mystery of every science of prediction."

I own I am not quite *au fait* in the art of decyphering this incongruous mass of ill joined words and sentences: I have heard of chimerical doctrines, but never of a general doctrine of chimeras, and the broken metaphor of the key in addition to its being a very bad one, is wholly misapplied, for I never heard of a key that foretold any thing, whatever it might enable its possessor to foretell. Whoever wrote the article, probably intended it should convey a meaning something similar to the following. "We intreat the authors to reflect, that astrology is a perfect chimera, that any other key will open to us the secrets of futurity as readily as the stars, and that the mere doctrine of chances is the sole basis of every science of prediction."

If this be its true meaning, I would first ask the learned editor (admitting he wrote the article, which I suspect from

PREFACE

xi

its incoherence he did not) whether he ever studied astrology sufficiently to know from experience that it is a chimera,—*ne damnent quæ non intelligunt*. This I must leave to his own candour, but in the mean time I cannot avoid having an opinion of my own, which is this, that he never could bring up a direction in his life, nor solve a single problem in the science, merely for this plain reason, because he never attempted it. When a boy at school, he had heard the old, trite, commonplace observation, that astrology was all a chimera, and finding this opinion was general (although not one who held it could give any other reason but that, “it was so because it was so,” and “every body said the same”) he chose, for want of a little industry, to remain a boy on this subject as long as he lived. If this opinion be not an additional chimera, I shall leave himself to determine how far he can be qualified to dogmatize on a subject he so little understands. Just as far as a craal of Hottentots would be qualified to decide on the merits of the Monthly Magazine,—they would clap it to their ears, and, not hearing it speak, would “intreat the editor (if he were there) to reflect, that on the doctrine of chimeras any other key would give as accurate information as books and letters, and that on the mere chance of a man’s finding out any thing without their assistance, depends the entire mystery of all the knowledge they are said to contain.”

But the most striking feature in this remark is its universality: surely no man would have the assurance to decide in such a positive manner on the merits or demerits of any set of opinions, however absurd they may appear to him, without having some proof of their falsehood, and I know of but one that can be depended on, which is experience. Has he really studied “every science of prediction?” if he has, it cannot be his fault that he is not a conjuror; and if he has not, he displays not only a narrow and illiberal mind, but also an unusual degree of vanity and folly, to suppose himself capable of deciding in his easy chair, by intuition alone, on the truth or falsehood of any science he has never tried.

In no case is prejudice respectable, and it is only pardonable when known to be the result of mental imbecility;

PREFACE

but when it springs from that conceited ignorance which neglects and despises every effort to enlighten its own darkness, it is equally reprehensible both on the score of indolence and presumption. It is difficult to credit, what nevertheless is a fact, that a person in this predicament should be one of the first to perceive and arraign the prejudices of others in favour of the Newtonian System, which he terms "The Hocus Pocus Philosophy of Gravitation," because it is contrary to his own new "Rotatory System of the Universe." That the Doctrine of Gravitation is false, requires little demonstration to prove, and that the Rotatory Doctrine is equally so, and contrary to many of the known laws of nature, is also evident: the trundling of a mop is a complete refutation of the whole hypothesis, and the retrogradation of the satellites of Ouranos, the great dissimilarity in the orbits of comets, and the angle of the Earth's annual and diurnal motion, must be equally fatal to it, even upon the principles of the inventor's own theory.

The advocates of gravitation, although undoubtedly mistaken, are more respectable with all their errors than those who, forgetting that ridicule is not the test of truth, endeavour to laugh them out of their creed, and to gain a point by irony, which they know not how to gain by proof or argument. The former have at least made a search after truth, and if they have been misled by others, the fault is not theirs: they have done their best. Should the inventor of the new system of the universe ever take it in his head to study astrology as long as they have studied philosophy (and surely he has no right to censure it until he does) we shall hear no more of his dogmatical decisions on that subject at least, and if he will but be silent until he can invalidate Capel Loft's well founded objections, we shall hear no more of his System.

INTRODUCTION

THAT the stars have an effect upon the Earth and its inhabitants is as self-evident a truth as that they have an existence: the ebbing and flowing of the tides prove this, as well as the periodical returns of heat and cold, light and darkness. These are the most prominent parts of Judicial Astrology, for in these planetary influence is universally felt and admitted, and its periods are accurately known. Thus far, at least, all men are astrologers, though most of them have not sense sufficient to discover it. Changes of weather, and all the various conditions of the atmosphere proceed from the same causes, namely, the various positions and configurations of the stars, although the manner in which they effect those changes is not wholly known, but an attentive observer will perceive them, more particularly at the lunar dichotomes and sextiles, and not unfrequently at the semi-sextiles and semiquadrates. Every sublunary event has its origin in planetary influx, and, as Locke justly observes, "the change or removal of any orb, although incomprehensibly distant, would cause things to put on a very different appearance." The dispositions, habits, and fortunes of not only men but of every organized being that does or can exist, are derived from the same source, and the infinite variety of action and counteraction arises from the infinite variety of causes operating against each other, in which the less is of course overcome by the greater.

The more immediate of these causes are the planets, owing to their proximity, rapid motion, and frequent combinations with each other as well as with the fixed stars, which enable them to produce and convey a variety of different influences. Of these the luminaries are the greatest in power: the Moon by reason of her proximity, and the

xiv

INTRODUCTION

Sun from his immense magnitude and peculiar conformation. But to give the reader a clearer idea of the nature and power of the planets, it is necessary here to subjoin a short description of them.

The SUN is a globe, apparently of fire, though there is great reason to suppose it to be a body of opaque, cool matter, like our own, surrounded by a luminous substance, which, whether it be an atmosphere, as Herschel supposes it to be, or not, is a point not easily decided. Perhaps the sensations of light and heat derived from it are only the natural consequences of its vivifying power operating on our senses, and possibly the inhabitants (if any) of the Moon may experience similar sensations from our Earth, round which they revolve in the same manner as we do round the Sun. Certain it is, that apparently no heat proceeds from the Sun, as is evident from the accumulation of snow on the tops of high mountains, in climates where the sands of the valley would scorch the naked feet like burning embers. Caloric, therefore, must be produced from the Earth, and drawn to its surface by the solar influence. Hence deep springs are warm in winter, when the Sun has not power to draw the heat from them, and cold in summer. Neither does the air imbibe any warmth from the solar rays, which is a proof they contain none, for the hot surface of the Earth or any ignited substance will warm it in an instant.

The Sun is about 1,392,500 times larger than the Earth, its diameter being estimated at 890,000 English miles. It is 1100 times larger than Jupiter, and 2360 times larger than Saturn. Its distance from the Earth is 95,200,000 miles, though some state it at 98,000,000, and others at 100,000,000. Its rotation on its axis from west to east is completed in 25*d.* 14*h.* 8*m.* Its shape, like that of the Earth, is an oblate spheroid. Its mean apparent diameter is 32' 14". Its heat and light, according to Newton, is 7 times greater at the planet Mercury than with us, and therefore that orb must be in many parts red hot, and its water continually boiling. This is a very absurd supposition: there is little reason, as was observed before, to suppose that the Sun emits caloric, it only operates upon

INTRODUCTION

xv

it where it is found, and there can be very little doubt but that the caloric power of Mercury is suited to the Sun's proximity. The mean daily solar motion is $59' 8''$. The body of the Sun is covered with a variety of shades of light, and appears very rough and uneven. Various spots are seen on it, called *maculæ*, supposed by Herschel to be depressions in the luminous atmosphere, and by others, with more probability, to be bodies of opaque matter, which in time acquire a degree of ignition, or rather they begin to be decomposed, and become luminous like the surrounding matter. These luminous spots are called *faculæ*. Herschel conceives the whole to be a collection of luminous or phosphoric clouds, some of which are brighter than others, and that their distance from the body of the Sun cannot be less than 1843, or more than 2765 miles. The inclination of its axis to its orbit is $82^{\circ} 44'$.

SATURN was formerly considered the most distant planet in the solar system. His mean distance from the Sun is 908,000,000 miles, his mean diameter, 78,000 miles, he revolves round his axis in $10h. 16m.$, and round the Sun in $29y. 167d. 5h.$ His annual motion is 20,800 miles an hour, he is 750 times as large as the Earth, and half as large as Jupiter. He has seven satellites, or moons, and two rings, one of which is considerably larger than the other: the two together are about 39,000 miles broad, and about 39,000 miles distant from Saturn's body. They revolve in the same time as Saturn himself, namely, $10h. 16m.$ The power of the Sun to Saturn is said to be only one ninetieth of what it is to the Earth. The form of Saturn is the same as that of all other revolving bodies, that of an oblate spheroid. His ascending node is in 22 degrees of Cancer, his mean apparent diameter $18''$, and the inclination of his axis to his orbit is almost nothing, so that he has no change of seasons: others state it at 60° .

JUPITER is the largest of all the planets belonging to our system, except the Sun, from which he is distant 495,000,000 of miles; his period is $11y. 314d. 12h.$ and he moves at the rate of 30,000 miles an hour. He is 1500 times as large as the Earth, and his diameter is 94,000 miles. He revolves on his axis from west to east in $9h. 56m.$ His figure is

xvi

INTRODUCTION

that of an oblate spheroid; his diameter at the equator being to his axis as 13 to 12. The plane of his equator is only 1 degree 19 minutes different from that of his ecliptic, of course he has no change of seasons. His rotatory motion is very rapid, being 30,940 miles, which is quicker than that in his orbit. The Sun has, they suppose, but one forty-eighth part of the power at Jupiter that he has with us, but the quick succession of his day and night, they add, may in some degree make up the deficiency. He has four satellites, and several appearances like belts, which frequently appear and disappear, and are supposed to be vast masses of clouds caused by periodical winds or monsoons. His ascending node is in 8 degrees and a half of Cancer, and, of course, his descending node is in 8 degrees and a half of Capricorn. Some of his satellites are nearly as large as our Earth. The nearest of them is distant from the body of Jupiter about 266,000 miles, and the fourth is distant 1,189,000 miles. His mean apparent diameter is 39".

MARS is less than the Earth, his diameter being 5150 miles, whereas ours is 7953 miles. His distance from the Sun is 145,100,000 miles; he revolves on his own axis in 24*h.* 40*m.*, and moves round the Sun in 686*d.* 22*h.* 18*m.*, or at the rate of 54,000 miles an hour. He is said to have about half the quantity of our light and heat. It was generally supposed, that his ecliptic had nearly the same obliquity to the plane of his equator as ours, others estimate the difference of the axis and orbit to be 59° 22', but later observers assert that there is no obliquity, and consequently no change of seasons. His light is not so bright as that of Venus, although sometimes he appears as large, but he shines with a dull fiery redness, caused, as some suppose, by a thick cloudy atmosphere: though the colours of the planets are probably owing to the nature of their substances, which causes them to reflect the solar light differently. He is observed to have a bright part at the south pole, like a polar zone, and something of the kind at the north pole. Maraldi observed the former with no alteration for 60 years, and one half of it is brighter than the other. There are spots on his surface, and belts appearing and disappearing occasionally. He is, like the rest, an oblate spheroid, and

(To be continued.)

The Weather

THE month of January, 1907, will be remembered as having produced the coldest temperature since February, 1895. Immediately following the eclipse of 14th January a series of atmospheric disturbances set in at various centres of the globe. Simalu, off Sumatra, was destroyed by a tidal wave, with loss of 1500 lives. At the same time violent earthquake shocks were experienced. At Lisbon news was received of great floods at Rio de Janeiro, torrential rains flooded the New City, stores and property being washed about in the streets. A great typhoon off Liao Tang sank five Chinese junks and thirty-five Japanese vessels. At Constantinople the cold was intense, and thirteen degrees of frost were registered, the vehicular traffic being blocked by snow. In Germany the coldest weather for twenty-five years past was experienced. In Berlin twenty-six deaths from cold and starvation occurred in one night. On p. 122 we predicted "earthquakes in various parts of the world, with widespread disasters and loss of life and property," and for January "inclement weather and a prevalence of cyclonic storms."

During the ensuing Quarter the following effects are likely to be experienced :—

MARCH.—Opens fine and gusty, some local thunder about the 5th, then softer weather with drizzle or showers; 8th, storms, violent atmospheric effects up to and including the 11th, much rain; changing for finer weather, 14th; 18th to 20th, windy, with stormy weather; after 22nd, fine and much warmer. *Storm Periods*—5th to 14th; 18th to 20th, and 27th.

APRIL.—Opens fine and mild; 3rd to 8th, quick changes; 10th, thunderstorms; fine to 20th; 21st, heavy rains; 23rd to 28th, stormy then a rise of temperature, but unsettled to end of month. *Storm Periods*—10th, 23rd to 25th, and 27th.

MAY.—Opens dull; 2nd, stormy; then fine and warm, to about 13th; cooler from 15th to 20th; fine to 24th; heat with light winds to 27th; 28th, storms, then cooler to the end of month. *Storm Periods*—2nd 16th, 22nd, and 28th.

Market Forecasts

I AM glad to say that during the past Quarter my prognostications in regard to the trend of the markets have been very much in line with the fact. Among items of special comment, the Mining interests in South Africa have received considerable appreciation, and with the discovery of a new diamond mine of the first water on the Rhodesian Border, more than usual interest has been taken in S.A. exploration concerns. But South Africa has not yet reached the crisis, and the Labour War has yet to sound its tocsin there, so that anything in the nature of investment should be regarded with caution.

During the ensuing Quarter the following are likely to be the chief movements in the several markets quoted :—

MARCH.—After a good opening, when Consols and other Gilt-edged securities will be quoted higher, sustained for the first few days, there will be, on the whole, a bad month to record. What is gained will be more than lost before the month expires. **SOUTH AFRICANS** open well, but go badly from the 18th to the end, and finish flat. **HOME RAILS** are down for the first fortnight, and especially in the second week, but may recover somewhat during the third week, only to fall off under the general depression of the markets in the last week. **SPANISH BONDS** are much lower during the second week, and selling for the fall seems likely to be profitable. **WHEAT** shipments and crop reports will be such as to depreciate values in the staple during the month, and several downward moves will bring prices to a bad average. **COTTON** will at first be appreciated, and some trading profit will be made on sales during the first days of the month. The latest quotations will, however, be off the best for the month. **AMERICAN RAILS** are on the month mostly favourable to sellers.

APRIL.—There are no strong indications of anything like a revival of business on the Exchange this month, and the depressing influences of the last month are likely to continue. **CONSOLS** should, however, steady the market a little during the second fortnight. In the first week **INDIAS**, among others, will contribute to the depression of the market tone, while in the second and last weeks **KAFFIRS** and **South Africans** generally will scale off considerably. **HOME RAILS** will follow the general downward trend, and may be at their worst for the month about the 27th. **WHEAT**

shows a further decline on the month, and will be at its lowest on report of Spring Crops, the conditions during the last week strongly favouring sellers. COTTON is if anything a shade better on the month's trading, but shows a decline of some extent at the close of the month. AMERICAN RAILS go well in the first fortnight, and will be the bright spot in the market. During the second half of the month they are less active and buoyant.

MAY.—The month shows indications of a strong revival of business, and will prove to be one of the best and most active of the year. CONSOLS give the lead, as the bed-rock of security, by a good advance during the first week, and are followed by HOME RAILS, which show an advance in prices during the first week. AMERICAN RAILS, on the other hand, are rather neglected during the same period. The indications are sustained for a full fortnight, during which an all-round advance will be made in stocks and shares, business being brisk and cheerful. Thereafter the market will be off the best, and about the 24th a turn in the market will lead down to lower levels. In the latter part of the month SOUTH AFRICANS will fall off, but AMERICAN RAILS look to go better on their own merits. Among other features of the month I look for a considerable improvement in Peruvians, Indias, Greeks. Shares placed on the market early in the month will continue to go well, and flotations should be comparatively easy. WHEAT shows a considerable rise from the end of the first week to the 24th, while COTTON prices fluctuate from firm to steady, and show a slight appreciation on the month's trading.

NOTE.—The Chart of any specific Company, Stock or Share, can be obtained from THE FORECAST for Ten Shillings.

Monte Carlo and Astrology

QUITE recently an effort has been made by ingenious students of sidereal influence to apply the principles of Astrology to the game of Roulette. It is not within the fortune of every one at any time to break the bank, but it is just within the possibilities of the game that an individual, operating under good influences, may have a run of "luck" which can be largely augmented by attention to times and seasons. If Solomon was right in his dictum that "there is a time for everything and a season to every purpose under the heavens," it is only rational that times and seasons are applicable to speculative hazards, as much as to the planting of potatoes or the opening up of war, and as being more profitable than the one and less disastrous than the other, we may take the matter into consideration, perhaps with advantage to the attentive and ingenious reader.

At the present time I am demonstrating to my private correspondents that Astrology is not all in the air, but can compass the much-debated question of "spotting the winner" in about 75 per cent. of cases where the rules are applicable. The matter has been under rigid expert test and has been found satisfactory. A good

deal has been made of the four-minute period, which forms a part of that very illusive system to which I have recently referred, as applied by Mr. Ahmed to horse-racing, with results the most disastrous. I have always affirmed that there is a considerable element of truth in this method, but only a fool or a knave would attempt its application to racing. Yet in the matter of Roulette it seems at first sight to be the only method applicable to the game. A correspondent playing at Monte Carlo says it is more applicable to Roulette than to horse-racing, and I believe the lady knows what she is talking about. But when she adds, "there are things in it which puzzle me, and also I must say it is illusive," I am altogether with her. Sometimes one watches it in operation, and there it is. Come to play with it, and it jumps about like a goat in a fit of temper.

But now to investigation. The coup takes on an average about four minutes. During this period there is a dominant or horary planet in sway and a subdominant or four-minute planet in operation. I suppose everybody knows what a roulette wheel is. In the extremely unlikely event of one of my readers not knowing the article, I may say that it is a wheel divided

into 37 sections, alternately red and black, such sections bearing figures ranging from zero to 36. The figures are arranged in four series of nine numbers each, 1-9, 10-19, 19-27, 28-36. In the first series the numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 are rouge (red), the others being noir (black). In the second series the numbers 12, 14, 16, 18 are red and the others black. In

the third series the numbers 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 are red, the others being black. In the fourth series the numbers 30, 32, 34, and 36 are red, and the others black. The following table will render this plain, and will serve to show that the first and third, as the second and fourth series, are coloured on the same plan. The italic figures are red.

☉	♂	♀	☉	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Positive.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Negative.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	Positive.
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	Negative.

If this table be regarded carefully it will be seen that there are an equal number of reds and blacks in it. Also that the first series 1-9 contains positive reds, and negative blacks; the second series negative reds and positive blacks; and similarly of the others, formed on the same plan. It is further seen that the unit value of each number in the same perpendicular column is the same, and that the total unit values of the columns are in series of multiples of FOUR, *i.e.* 4/8/12/16/20/24/28/32/36.

It will further be noticed that as regards both the positive and negative series, there are two sets of figures due to the Sun and two to the Moon, while the other planets have but one each. It is, however, when we come to practice that we

meet with the complexities of this seemingly innocently devised scheme, and begin to appreciate its difficulties, and it is not long before we perceive that a good deal has to be understood and mastered before we can make a run that is worth our money.

In the first place the planetary periods are alternately positive and negative, and we have to determine which of these is in operation at the moment of commencing to play. At the same time it has to be known which of the series is running, whether the positive or negative, and finally which planet is in operation. Note that the open or negative series belong to *Passe*, and the closed or positive series to *Manque*; that odd numbers belong to *Impaire* and the even to *Paire*, while the Rouge are positive

and the Noir are negative. Thus it is seen that the table is divided into three sections, the left side being Female or Negative, with Passe, Paire, and Noir to play, while the right side is Masculine or Positive, with Manque, Impaire and Rouge to play.

In the positive series of the period of the Sun in play the number falls on 1, Impaire, or 19, Manque, and then goes to 24 or 6, 5, 34, Rouge, etc., according to the run of the alternating series. It is this alternation which from time to time brings negative numbers into positive play, and vice versa, so that, as my correspondent remarks, "Jupiter and Venus, and Mars and Mercury often transpose, but at other times they come in right order." It is further observed that at the same or equivalent planetary numbers may be heard in play at the ten tables as one passes down the salon, which, as has been remarked, "seems to show that the principle is right, and

that it is not a phantasy," but there are times when the tables do not agree, and for this reason it would appear that a great deal depends upon whether, at opening of the play, a positive or negative number in the dominant planetary series wins the coup.

It would be quite easy to determine what sequence to follow at any moment if the winning coups for a sequence of seven were given, but they must be from the same table, and the time of the last coup alone will serve to show the period in force, while the sequence will reveal the series then running. I conceive that the application of this principle to the play would make of it a rather busy time, but it would certainly be an agreeable set-off to the nervous tension which clutches the majority of players who merely wait upon their luck. I shall be glad to have paragraphs bearing on this subject from interested readers.

SEPHARIAL.

Casual Causerie

THE NEW SESSION

PARLIAMENT is once more open, and to quote the Speech from the Throne, "serious questions affecting the working of our Parliamentary system have arisen from unfortunate differences between the two Houses," which, we are assured, "are under consideration with a view to the solution of the difficulty." So far as Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is concerned, the solution of the difficulty would seem to lie in the dissolution of the Upper House. This and Home Rule for Ireland appear to be the main points before the House of Commons for the ensuing session. What the Prime Minister means by "the wishes of the people" it is difficult to say, but probably it would be correctly read as "the wishes of so many of the people as are represented by my following." On the question of the "other House," I think we of the family of Urania who have thought upon the matter must confess to the existence in Nature of hereditary hierarchies, differences of magnitude, and some other living facts which are contrary to the dead-level notion of equal "this and that" for all men. Quite apart from this expression of opinion, which perhaps will not very seriously affect the issue, let us see what the portents attach to the event of the opening of Parliament on the 12th February at 2.20 P.M.

At this time the 27th degree of Pisces is culminating and the 26th of Cancer rising on the horizon of

London. The Moon is therefore ruler of the horoscope, and is found in the terminal or decadent House (the 8th) in conjunction with the Sun. From this it is possible to predict changes in the Privy Council, and more than a little danger attaching to the leader of the House, who stands, par excellence, for the majority of the electorate. Beyond this, and the quadrature of Mars to the planet Mercury, which indicates some hot debate and no little invective, I do not consider the horoscope an important one. But the close conjunction of the luminaries in the 8th House is of considerable importance, and it requires no prophet to see that there are certain measures before the House which, if carried, would speedily alienate a very large section of the public on whose support and confidence the Government depends. Che sarà sarà, and it is almost superfluous to quote in full, *Quem deus perdere, etc.*

Looking now to the immediate prospects of the Government from this horoscope, in which the Ascendant and the Moon stand for the Party, and the Midheaven and the Sun for its credit and repute, we find that in July next the planet Saturn will be *stationary* on the Midheaven, and this must prove the signal for some very heavy and effective assaults upon the Government by the Opposition, represented by Saturn, the ruler of the 7th division of the heavens.

Fortunately for the Government, however, the planet Jupiter will be in transit over the Ascending degrees of this horoscope, and the Moon's ascending node will also be thereon about the same time. Saturn, moreover, retrogrades, but it will not pass without leaving its

stigma behind, and when, in February 1908, he comes again to that point, there will come to pass the downfall which I have repeatedly predicted from the horoscopes of two members of the Cabinet already considered in these pages.

THE WOOLWICH EXPLOSION

ALMOST coincident with the opening of Parliament was the great explosion at Woolwich, which took place at 3.20 A.M. of the 11th February. At this time the Moon was nearing its conjunction with the Sun and was in its descending node, and also in perigee or but slightly past it. A correspondent points out that at 7 A.M. of the 10th, when the Moon was exactly in perigee, Mars was culminating on the meridian of Woolwich. I do not know that there is anything

to be gained from this fact, unless it can be shown that the explosion was due to natural causes, in which case we should have to consider the gravitating power of the Moon in connection with chemic action. But even so, the disaster would seem to be a residual effect of the total lunar eclipse of the 29th ult., and in this connection it is just worthy of note that on the day of the explosion Mercury had attained the exact square aspect of the place of Mars at that eclipse.

THE EARTH'S DARK SATELLITE

SOME seven or eight years ago there was a good deal of newspaper talk about a second satellite of the Earth, which I christened "Lilith," the name of the second wife of Adam in the Hebrew mythology. She was one of the hell-born spirits who sought and obtained human generation, and her progeny are "the Children of Darkness." A correspondent, who has recently tumbled upon some of those interesting numbers of my journal, *Coming Events*, asks me if I still seriously believe in the existence of the satellite? I think I made it fairly clear what my opinion in the matter was by publishing a Table of the Solar Conjunctions of Lilith. I am not in the habit of fooling my

time away in chasing shadows. Solid bodies are of another order, and command my consideration. Richard Proctor was of opinion that there are "many such non-luminous bodies" floating about in space in regular orbits. When Dr. Waltemath, of Hamburg, made his discovery of this body, a record of all previous apparitions of similar bodies was made, and it was found that, supposing a certain orbit and synodical period, the several observations exactly accorded with the motions of the alleged second satellite of the Earth with a mean motion of 3 degrees a day. It was further found that the synodical period was about 178 days, and on this basis I constructed several

horoscopes of known subjects, including the position of the satellite "Lilith." In some few of these cases I asked the student to eliminate this factor, and then to account in any satisfactory manner for the events recorded. The absence of any attempt in this direction leaves me in possession of my own opinion and—Lilith.

True, it is no Elysian territory, this world of an endless night, and one can but wonder whether it be not of the nature of those spheres reserved for the habitation of those

souls whose spiritual eclipse consigns them to what is graphically described as "outer darkness." Some such correspondence of inner state to external conditions is argued for by the Mystics, and if this be so, a new meaning may be read into Tartarus and Hades, and new work found for the Saviours of the race in worlds beyond our own. A cheerless task from our snug point of view on the green sunlit Earth, but honourable enough to be ambitious of.

HELIOCENTRICS

I HAVE often envied the Solar Biologists who complacently sit in the centre of the Sun and watch the unvarying motions of the planets in their several orbits. By some imaginary process of reasoning and observation, the planets are connected with the individual *via* the solar orb, and their successive aspects with one another are found to be indicative of mundane events. Astrology, however, is no such easy matter. The proof of it is that if you ask an exponent of Heliocentric Astrology to *predict* an event, he immediately has recourse to such factors in the problem as are common to both the heliocentric and the geocentric methods, namely, the Sun and Moon—though why he adopts the geocentric longitude of the lunar orb is not quite clear even to himself—and for the rest he depends upon transits of the superior planets. The parallax of the planet being in inverse ratio to the distance of a body from the Sun, it follows of course that there is never a great difference between the heliocentric and geocentric longitudes of the more distant

bodies, and the difference is only considerable when in or near the quadrature of aphelion. On the few events which are thus indicated, the disciple of Hiram Butler is quite content to hang his reputation.

The case is different with the system of geocentric Astrology advanced by Claudius Ptolemy, Placidus de Titus, and other and more modern exponents of the ancient system. Not only are the planets' apparent motions irregular, direct, retrograde, or stationary, but also there is an ever varying distance between the planet in its orbit and the body of the Earth, which counts for something in the matter of its mundane influence, if at all analogous to the attraction of gravitation. That this fact has not been sufficiently taken into account by astrologers I am well aware, and I have already intimated that it may have some share in explaining why the same aspects formed from time to time in a horoscope are variable in the measure of their effects. An ingenious attempt has been made to explain this anomaly by reference to the latitudes of the planets

when in conjunction and opposition. But this amounts to a begging of the premiss that the ecliptic is the plane of action in all cases. It is claimed, for instance, that if two planets were in opposition from, say, Virgo 6 degrees and Pisces 6 degrees, the opposition would not be a true one unless they both had the same celestial latitude, the one being north and the other south of the ecliptic. What then if two bodies are in conjunction in the ecliptic, both having the same north or south latitude, would that be a true conjunction? And, to resume

the catechism, if not, why not? Of the same ultra-ingenuous order as this was the suggestion that, as certain circumpolar stars were always in the circle of apparition, that is, never rose or set on the horizon of these climes, they could not form any aspects in a horoscope, which is as much as to say that they never have any longitude. An obvious blunder. It is not our intention to set up new standards or criteria, but it is to be hoped that we may not be backward in helping the student to think these things out for himself.

Phenomena Interpreted

MARCH.—The lunation of March 14th falls close to the position of Saturn and in quadrature to Mars. It is preceded between the 7th and 11th March by a quadrature of Mars and Saturn, a conjunction of Sun with Saturn, and the quadrature of Sun to Mars. The second week of March will therefore be marked by severe storms, widespread fires, one of which will affect property in London, many accidents, and an unusual number of cases of violence. Those at whose births these or similar aspects prevailed, should now be careful of their actions, for these configurations will be sure to ring them up to the realization of some of the more discordant elements of their natures. Sympathetic vibration was an old-world notion which modern wireless telegraphy has proved true.

From the 18th to 20th there is a conjunction of the Sun with Mercury and a quadrature of Mercury with Mars. This again is a period of more than usual violence and excitement. Men's minds will be stirred to strife, and warlike moods will dominate the thought of such as were radically constituted to respond to vibrations such as these now set up in the Solar system. Great storms will abound. On the 27th there is a conjunction of Saturn with Mercury which threatens storms and floods and unusually distressful weather in many parts.

APRIL.—The chief phenomena range from the 3rd to 10th and from the 23rd to 26th. During the first of these periods the Sun forms the quadrature of Uranus, Mercury is conjoined with Saturn again, and Mars is in opposition to Jupiter. These aspects are likely to bring financial

troubles in their wake, and the failure of speculative enterprises seems likely to spread disaster. There will be some heavy thunderstorms about the 10th of the month. About the 6th Mars forms the opposition of the place of Jupiter at the last total eclipse of the Moon. Hence there will be earthquakes in divers places about this date. On the 23rd Mercury will form the square of Jupiter, another earthquake-producing influence, and on the 25th Mars will be opposed to Neptune, being at the same time in conjunction with the position of Uranus at the last eclipse. Disasters will be widespread and of great magnitude, and as at this time also Mars is in square to Mercury, there will be political strife, many fires and explosions, and seismic phenomena. In fact, the last week of April will be remarkable for the concatenation of disastrous storms, earthquake shocks and casualties of various kinds.

MAY.—In continuation of the transit of Mars we find it forms the conjunction with Uranus on the 3rd of this month, and it must be taken in connection with the recent opposition of Neptune to the same planet. The least of evils it is capable of effecting will be in the nature of heavy hailstorms and other atmospheric phenomena about the 2nd and 3rd of the month. The conjunction of Jupiter with Neptune in the sign Cancer on the 22nd, followed by its opposition to Uranus on the 28th, will stir up phenomenal forces in the earth, in the air, and in the minds of men, finding expression in earthquake shocks, violent storms, and political agitation of an exceptional order. India is now liable to be stirred by internal dissensions, and there is some danger of an outbreak of feeling in that country.

These are the chief phenomena occurring during the three months under observation, and it will be seen that they are of a nature to produce many disturbances of unusual magnitude in the physical, financial, political and religious worlds.

Horse-racing and Astrology (II)

SO much interest has been excited among newspaper readers by the appearance of my article on this subject in the last issue of THE FORECAST, that I have received communications from a variety of quite unlikely sources and from persons who profess no special interest in the claims which Astrology makes to be regarded as a system of Divination, let alone its more certainly couched claim to be regarded as a synthetical Science. In fact, it has become obvious that there are hundreds of persons willing to take an interest in the subject when once we can succeed in bringing it into line with the facts which especially occupy their minds. It has, indeed, been somewhat of a surprise to me to learn that there are quite a number of astrological students whose interest in the subject begins and ends here. They have been at considerable pains to refine upon ordinary astronomical calculations, to learn to set figures for any given time and place, and withal to make a fine balance of the elements involved, solely for the purpose of "spotting the winner." Whether the game is worth the candle is a matter upon which more than one has cultivated doubts at no little cost to himself in the shape of *as in presenti* and in point of fact the whole matter is at last resolved to this: That whereas certain so-called "infallible" systems just succeed in keeping a man's book a trifle on the right side, leaving nothing to represent time, labour, and the prodigious wear and tear of brain

and nerve involved in the process, the system has yet to be discovered which actually pays for its upkeep. Of course I have been freely consulted as to the winner of the Lincoln Spring Handicap, and I have often enough reminded my correspondents that the punter or punster might put his money on a "cert" if he dares, but perhaps there would be an objection.

Now I have offered such a system to my readers, or have at least indicated that such a system exists and has an exponent capable of weighing its merits on results and of putting it to thorough and searching test. Hence the inscription of so many letters and the trouble of mind to which I have been put since first I broached the subject. Let me briefly indicate the particular merits of the system referred to. It is claimed for it that (1) It is not infallible but is in the way of becoming practically so; (2) It brings out all the horses that have a chance of winning in any particular race; (3) It brings out the tipped horses and along with them the "cow" from the stable; (4) It specifically indicates the winner in over fifty per cent. of races to which it applies.

On the tabulation of results of five consecutive days' racing out of 30 races the system applies to 24 of them, and out of these 24 races the winner is indicated in 18.

Again, in the tabulated results of 60 races, the winner is indicated in no less than 50.

In review of the statement for the system it is possible, with such results before us, to say definitely

that there are a good many horses "tipped" which have not a ghost of a chance of winning whether on form or fancy, because the probabilities of the law are against them, and the system is to this extent illuminative that it refines upon the list of "good things" at first sight. But, often enough to be of singular service to those whose fancy lightly turns to thoughts of "outsiders," it strongly indicates that particular old cow which, although not fancied outside of the stable door, has a knack, "good fortune" they call it, of romping home just ahead of everything else that "ought to have won." Finally by the application of a fine point of judgment, which marvellously upholds the general interpretations of astrology, and adds a particular note of occult interest to what otherwise may be regarded as a purely mathematical scheme, but which forms a specific part of the System.

Often enough too, the system

brings out the horses which come in 1, 2, 3. Thus in a case where only three horses were indicated as having a chance by the system, they came in in their proper order Portland Lass, Tui, Sailor Lady, and in other cases where only three were indicated they came in just as they ought to have done. Indeed, even in the percentage of cases where the winner is not indicated, the placed horses are. The special advantage of the system lies in the fact that one need not know the exact time at which the race starts or finishes. All one wants is the schedule time and the acceptances.

And now, having satisfied my correspondents to an extent which appears to me to cover their enquiries and having also given them an opportunity of practically testing the system, I think that discretion is best served by a full period, which I will ask the printer to place just here.

SEPHARIAL.

Astrology in Practice

KRUGER'S LITTLE JOKE

IN the course of the present volume of THE FORECAST it is my intention to cite instances of general interest in which the opinion of an astrological expert has been sought with advantage. The first instance comes readily to

hand as I write from a quarter of the world where there are many intelligent students of the science of Horoscopy. The *Natal Mercury* which has the largest circulation of any paper in that Colony prints the following luminous instance—

'THE DOROTHEA'S' TREASURE

An Astrologer's Pronouncement

"To those concerned in astrology and the hunting for treasure, the following opinion of the editor of THE FORECAST ('Sepharial') on

the alleged *Dorothea's* treasure will be of more than ordinary interest. The alleged facts are as follows—

"Lying buried beneath hundreds

of tons of cement and sand on the Tenedos Reef, near Cape Vidal, off the coast of Zululand, is bullion to the value of £450,000. The fact that this treasure has already baffled twenty-five expeditions which have set out to recover it is sufficient explanation why it is still there. The story of this buried wealth is well known to the British Government, and details of how it came in its present position are duly recorded in the national archives. The treasure, which is officially known as 'Kruger's millions,' although worth no more than the sum stated, is the proceeds of illicit gold buying from the Rand.

"Secret agents of the old Transvaal Government, it is said, bribed mine employees to cheat their employers and sell the gold thus stolen at a cheap rate. It was intended to dispose of the gold in South America. Meanwhile it was stored in a spot not far from Delagoa Bay. An old Swedish barque, named the *Dorothea*, was purchased; the gold was taken on board and covered with layers of cement. The barque set sail, and when off Cape Vidal was wrecked, and went down inside the Tenedos Reef. As soon as these facts became known—which was during the Boer war—the treasure hunting began. Expedition after expedition set out in hopes of recovering the gold, but all alike failed. One gentleman, a Mr. Ward Hall, of Johannesburg, equipped no fewer than five expeditions, at different times, at his own expense. All were unsuccessful, and, in addition to imperilling his life many times, Mr. Hall is now the poorer by £6,000.

"‘Sepharial’s’ statement is as follows:—I have carefully considered the proposition you put to me as to the existence of a lost treasure off Cape Vidal, and have come to the conclusion that there is not so much as a trace of it to be there found. There is nothing to recover, and any syndicate which puts money into it will dry up. Raising sea water is nothing profitable, but shovelling money into the sea is rather worse. That is all it means in this case.

"Reasons astrologic are not insufficient, as you will see—

"Ruler of the 4th (Jupiter) in the 8th (loss) in the sign of its fall (Gemini). Saturn on the cusp of the 4th. The Moon in Aries in the 4th afflicted and in mutual disposition with Mars, ruler of the 5th (speculation), also in the 8th in Cancer, the sign of its fall.

"But Saturn in Pisces on the cusp of the 4th is quite sufficient apart from anything else. For if there were the wealth of Ophir down there it would never be recovered.

"Bon voyage!"

It does not appear to have crossed the minds of the Government officials that the beautiful old hulk, the *Dorothea*, was a decoy duck, specially put out and more especially brought to grief off Cape Vidal for the purpose of securing a safer and more leisurely disposition of the "Kruger millions" than could otherwise have been assured. But Governments, like individuals, live and learn. I may add that I was consulted by an officer who proposed taking a financial interest in the Syndicate.

SEPHARIAL.

Reviews

THE OCCULT REVIEW for February has some excellent half-tone plates from the manuscript works of William Blake, the English poet and mystic, with a descriptive article on Four Recent Books of that great seer by Eric Maclagan. There is also a suggestive article by Leo Cabas on "A Suggested Explanation of the Zancig Thought - reading Mystery," which should attract readers. The Editorial Notes, especially those on Auto-suggestion in relation to sense perceptions, will be found of exceptional interest. The number generally should prove an attractive source of information on subjects of especial interest to the public at this time.

The journal may be obtained from my publishers, at 6, Henrietta St.

ASTROLOGICAL AXIOMS, by S. JOHN ELLIOTT. Price 1s. net.

MR. ELLIOTT takes responsibility for the enunciation of a set of aphorisms or axioms, which, if nothing else can be said for them, have at least the merit of originality, of which the author himself is fully conscious. The basis of the system adopted in evolving these "axioms" is that of transits and their known influence upon affairs governed by the "House" or division of the Heavens through which they are

passing at the time. Mr. Elliott extends their influence to the opposite House and to those Houses which are in quadrature thereto. It is in effect a system of mundane astrology applied to transits, for obviously the statement does not apply to the signs of the zodiac. The net result when reduced to the axiomatic form is at times startling, at others obscure, and again little else than mere bathos. Unfortunately Mr. Elliott is badly informed in his principles. One obvious error is in the supposition that all lawsuits proceed from the 7th House, as involved in the following:

"If a lawsuit goes against you, guard your head against accident," etc.

"If a lawsuit be gained or lost . . . visit your friends or kindred."

"If a lawsuit goes against you, start no new business, neither remove your residence."

Of the more startling order are the following:

"Beware of the Full Moon on the 7th and 14th anniversary of starting your business."

"If you receive a legacy, invest in property, but not in business, or you may lose the lot within seven years."

"Never accept advice from people having scars or moles on the face."

Mr. Elliott franks this last axiom with a portrait of himself, from which it is patent that (Axiom 56)

You should never have your portrait taken when writing astrological axioms! This last is altogether original, and may possibly find a place in the enlarged edition of Mr. Elliott's remarkable contribution to the literature of this subject.

EVERYBODY'S ASTROLOGICAL GUIDE for 1907, by the same author, is of quite a different category, and is based on the transits of the planets over the place and opposition of the Sun at birth, which by a slip of the pen Mr. Elliott refers to as "the planetary positions at birth." The work is well arranged, and the information given regarding various birthdays during the successive months of the year is quite reliable and will prove of use to those who have not the ability to read the Ephemeris for themselves. This is the second year of this issue, and I venture to say that with further study of the subject Mr. Elliott may succeed in pushing his conclusions to finer points of judgment and interpretation. It should secure a wide circulation.

NOTE.—*Essays on Astrology*, by James Harvey, reviewed in the Winter Number, can now be supplied by the Publisher of THE FORECAST. Price 7d., post free.

PRACTICAL ASTROLOGY, by ALAN LEO. Price 3s. 6d.

LEST any of my readers may think that I am tardy in reviewing this excellent book of instruction, let me explain forthwith that this volume is a revised and new edition of Mr. Leo's well-known work. In it there will be found many novel suggestions, not all of them capable of empirical test, but many of an intuitive character, derived rather from analogy than experience. It may perhaps be objected to that Astrology is "The Law which governs our Solar System," seeing that the results arrived at by its aid are only what we reason concerning the significance of planetary positions in relation to individuals born on this Earth. It is safe to say that Mars or Jupiter or any other member of the system will have an astrology of its own as different in its construction and principles as the putative inhabitants of those bodies are different from the Earth-born. Let us, however, say that Astrology is the law which governs all of the Solar System with which we were immediately concerned. The work is illustrated by a series of well-chosen horoscopes and many diagrams which, in effect, render the instructions of practical application.

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