ASTROLOGY

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EDITORIAL

RECENTLY I have been begged, by a very respected subscriber and proficient astrologer, to keep the pages of the Quarterly free from "esoteric vapourings." On the other hand, a friend was recently informed that I would never be a great astrologer (I am not aware that I have made any such claim!), the reason being that I was "not esoteric."

Personally I consider the Quarterly steers a reasonable course between these two extremes. For my own part I am certainly biased in favour of that which is practical and useful in an objective sense, but I cannot admit that because much of what passes for esotericism is sheer nonsense, therefore there is nothing behind the material universe that we contact with our senses. Indeed, as I have tried to demonstrate in *The Zodiac and the Soul*, our own science teaches us very plainly that there *are* principles which are superior to the objective manifestations which we can study in our horoscopes.

It seems to me that, just as G. B. Shaw said that Socialism would be all right but for the Socialists, so esotericism would be all right were it not that some of its self-styled exponents lack intellectual clarity and are often unable to explain clearly and logically the doctrines that they seek to promulgate. To be able to talk glibly about a few doctrines such as karma,

reincarnation, "the Masters," and so forth, is not enough; in fact, it is calculated to irritate those who are used to precision of thought and expression. Nor is a person who is wont to judge for himself favourably impressed when any request for proofs is met with an assertion that so-and-so, the "celebrated occultist," says so. Frankly, the human race has (as regards its more awake members) passed beyond the stage of mental nurserydom, and I am proud to say that in this respect most astrologers are in the van. Our science forces us to think for ourselves, for the simple reason that no nativity can be delineated by any hard and fast rules. Furthermore, it inculcates mental clarity and discipline. The vague wool-gathering individual cuts little ice in any astrological assembly that I have entered during the last ten years or so; and whether we are esotericists or otherwise we shall do well to keep him away from our gatherings.

In the last issue of the New York *Mercury* I read with interest that the late President Roosevelt was not merely a believer in Astrology, but was actually an accomplished practical student who used his own nativity as a guide in the numerous activities of his very vigorous life. It is this type of man, hard-headed, practical, positive, and yet withal possessing the highest ideals, that one aspires to see in the ranks of Astrology. We cannot all be Roosevelts, but we can certainly do our best to keep Astrology clear of the wrong kind of esotericism, which is both mentally and morally debilitating.

I do not go so far as to say that the work of certain bodies in popularising various occult subjects has been unfortunate and mistaken, but it is a fact that these conceptions, introduced indiscriminately and often to minds quite unprepared to receive them, have some-

times had effects that are the reverse of beneficial. We have the classic example of No. 260 in *Notable Nativities*, who regarded himself as "fated to extravagance by previous lives of selfishness," and as a result was "prodigal," lived a "careless life," and was "fleeced by moneylenders"! A curious notion, that the errors of the past could be expiated by renewed errors in the present! Unhappily this is by no means an isolated case, though one hopes that it is an extreme one.

It is my firm belief that the influences of the stars, potent and subtle though they are, cannot affect the moral and rational part of man, except in so far as he voluntarily permits them to do so.

Hence no stellar influence is a sufficient excuse for stupid, immoral, or irrational conduct.

This view I consider to be supported by common sense and experience and to be in no special way esoteric; indeed, many esotericists have failed to make any categorical statement on this important subject.

I further believe that unless and until the astrological world is prepared to accept this view we shall always find that people of sense and character will tend to look askance at Astrology, feeling that it is a temptation to adopt, consciously or unconsciously, fatalistic thought and a tendency to blame our own shortcomings upon our stars.

Of course there is an element of truth even in fatalism. From the material point of view much of our life *is* fated; but man is not merely material.

I have been interested lately to read some of the writings of third- and fourth-century philosophers on the question of fate in relation to Astrology. They sound remarkably modern. Sallust,[1] who was a friend of the

[1] Not to be confused with the historian of the same name.

Emperor Julian, about 300 years after Christ, uses the same argument that is used in *Seven Problems* on the question of stellar causation: how can the stars cause things, since we can see in a horoscope the rank and fortunes of the parents, which were settled before the child was born? I hope to publish extracts from some of these great thinkers, for in clear, logical argument and demonstration we could all learn something from them.

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I deeply regret to announce the decease of a well-known and highly esteemed Austrian astrologer, Captain Schwickert, who wrote under the name of *Sindbad*. This gentleman served in the Austrian Navy, resigned by reason of disagreement with his superiors, and afterwards commanded Baron Rothschild's yacht on a voyage round the world, in the course of which he found ample opportunities to discuss Astrology and occultism with Indian, Japanese, Arabian, and other philosophers. He belonged to the more esoteric school, and with great surprise I found that he had written a work on Symbolic Directions, of which I have never had the good fortune to see a copy. He died at the age of 73, loved and respected by all who knew him.

Birth-data: Southern Bohemia, 3.12 p.m., 16.9.1857. ♂ was in 23 ♌ near the chief astrological area.

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My recent forecast, to the effect that the Autumn Equinox would bring "great disturbances, particularly political, including further depression of values," was well and promptly fulfilled by the Hitler successes at the German polls, by the revolutionary outbreaks in Brazil and Spain, and by the substantial declines in early

October on the New York Stock Exchange, partly as a result of these matters. Tin, too, in London, reached the lowest price of the century, and the prices of other commodities were in little better plight.

One need take no credit for so obvious a forecast; it was as plain as a pikestaff, and a very big pikestaff at that. But would it not have been better for Astrology if all of our "prophets" had aimed at the easy birds *and got them*, instead of trying—and failing—to do something dramatic and astounding?

I cannot see anything dramatic in the way of trade revival in the near future, but I do believe that the worst is past, and that a *gradual, though intermittent, improvement* may now be expected. I have already referred to the Sun trine Mars in the New York Stock Exchange reorganisation map for April 1931. This should cause great activity and strength, despite the fact that the general mundane astrological conditions are far from perfect even by then. Meanwhile ♄ has still to transit ☌ ☉ in the U.S.A. horoscope, and the latter half of December threatens renewed financial depression.

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Despite the universal depression that lies over trade I am pleased to say that the Quarterly has strengthened its position and increased its circulation. Further, the Astrological Lodge grows constantly in strength and numbers now 150 members—a very notable corps of astrological students.

Lapsing into personal matters for a moment I may say that the first edition of *Principles of Astrology* has been sold out, and a second and revised edition is now in preparation. I am sorry that it has been found necessary to raise the price to 6s. (about $1.50), but

the truth is that until Astrology is a popular science astrological books cannot be sold at popular prices. This fresh edition embodies many improvements and additions.

A German translation of the *Encyclopædia* has appeared under the title *Astro-Psychologisches Lexicon.*

I would also refer readers to the advertising pages for a notice of a new book by myself entitled *The Astrological Aspects,* issued by Messrs. L. N. Fowler and Co., whose address appears on the inside of our front cover. Though not of an exactly revolutionary character this work is based on a strict examination of many hundreds of horoscopes, and the conclusions are, at least in some cases, at variance with what I for one had previously believed.

Meanwhile I have worked on the subject of Accidents, using among others the many horoscopes that readers have been good enough to supply. Here I can safely say that some of the results of my investigations have up to the present surprised me; and when I can finish the task, which is a considerable one, I shall lose no time in placing them before the public.

I am glad to have been able to make these contributions, such as they are, to our knowledge, for to me, as to most, this year has been difficult. A superficial observer might have prognosticated otherwise, as my chief directions were asc. △ ♄ and ☉ ✶ ♆. But both planets are too weak natally to be potent for good by direction: natal considerations outweigh all others, as is well known. I expected unpleasant results, and such was the case.

Needless to say Astrology was of great use during my various difficulties, for it is an immense help, both in practical matters and psychologically, to foresee the nature and duration of one's embarrassments, and to

know that they are not casual and fortuitous, but are an integral part of one's life.

I am quite sure hundreds of other students would agree with this.

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It was interesting, and to some extent encouraging, to hear Professor Malinowski, of London University, refer, when broadcasting from the B.B.C., to the "recently re-established science of Astrology." But we must demur at his classing this science (together with an omnium gatherum of modern cults) as a branch of magic.

I would not deny the possibility that the magician uses forces that have some relationship to the astrological influences. For instance, there is the story of the unfortunate *magus* who tried "to draw down the influences of the stars" to the detriment of Plotinus, and seems to have suffered acute "pains in his inside" as the result of his temerity.

But the magician tries to control and utilise these cryptic forces; the astrologer does nothing of the kind.

Is the parent or teacher a magician when he studies the maps of his children in order to discover the secrets of the specific relation that exists between them and the Cosmos? If, seeing that an ailing man has many planets in air, I tell him that he will gain strength in high and dry mountainous districts and should avoid damp and low-lying localities, am I then any more a magician than is the orthodox physician, who, after a medical diagnosis, tells him exactly the same thing?

In a word, the astrologer endeavours to understand and (in the appropriate spheres) to conform to the stellar influences.

If I choose my holiday when I have Moon conj.

Venus and avoid a time when there are malefic influences, I may be in some sense a magician or I may not; personally I know very well that I should be a very perfect fool to adopt the opposite course.

The magician uses will and imagination in certain ways that are well known to those who study such things. The astrologer, like the physician, needs a combination of *sympathetic insight and intellectual detachment.*

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Those who studied the Competition that appeared in the June 1930 issue should know that the native also met an accident on March 14, 1929, at Wood Lane, London, when a heavy piece of machinery fell and crushed his thigh, causing great pain, but no permanent injury. I do not know that I should have selected this case had I known that this accident happened within a few months of the other. It helps to explain some of the attempted solutions which mentioned machinery.

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In our June issue we published a speculative nativity of Helen Keller. An American correspondent has now obtained and forwarded the authentic time, which shows 25° ♏ rising, instead of 26 ♎. The correct data appear on page 215. The publication of speculative maps is sometimes justified, and in this case it elicited the true time of a most unique personality.

CHARLES E. O. CARTER.

JOTTINGS FROM AN ASTROLOGICAL NOTE-BOOK

By E. M. KENNISON

LAST summer, the *New York Astrologer* published an entertaining article by Katherine B. Burt on "The Persistence of the Astrological Symbol." It illustrated how the "unconscious expression of astrological symbolism is apparent in our surroundings, and the things with which we live." Since reading this article of Mrs. Burt's, I have been checking up on friends and acquaintances with results both amusing and instructive.

The influence of the solar or rising sign is frequently the most noticeable, although the position of Venus is often involved. The symbolism of certain signs is more apparent than is that of others. It is easy to see why this should be so, for some signs obviously lend themselves more readily to symbolic treatment.

One woman with Venus in Aries always has a preponderance of hats and, as a child, her dolls had little else in the way of clothing unless her sister took pity on them. A Taurus lady loves chains and ornaments that may be used to decorate the neck. I found many ardent gardeners under Taurus, probably because this sign has so much to do with the fruits of the earth.

Gemini often collects rings, gloves, and of course books.

Cancer puts money into household furnishings and food, rather than fine raiment, but the sign influence is noticeable in their homes. Their pictures invariably contain water, or they have a flair for "madonnas." Dogs usually occupy some place, possibly because of the presence of the "dog-star" in this sign.

Leo's symbolism is usually very apparent. In one home, a parchment lampshade, designed by a Leo

husband for a Gemini wife, contains a frieze of cats and parrots. If the parrot isn't a Gemini bird, it surely ought to be!

Virgo housekeeping is well known, as is the Virgo tendency to save anything likely to be useful. A typical Virgo remark came to my notice recently. A Leo friend was admiring a new apartment into which a Virgo acquaintance had just moved. "Oh, you have a fireplace! How lovely!" exclaimed the Leo lady, visioning fireside teas, *tête-à-têtes*, etc. "Yes," replied the Virgo native, "it *will* be a very useful place in which to burn up rubbish!" I strongly suspect that some fireplaces I recall—fireplaces filled with artificial flowers and waxed autumn leaves—belong to Virgo persons. Venus in Virgo is often very fussy about *all* clothing, and likes to make it last as long as possible.

Libra's symbolism isn't easy to locate, although I have seen in the hallway of one Libra home a framed legal document containing a blindfolded figure of "Justice." The tendency toward "balance," so strongly a part of the Libra temperament, is, however, often noticeable in the arrangement of furnishings. A chair on one side of a fireplace will be balanced by a similar chair on the other. Mantel ornaments will show the same symmetry.

A Scorpio lady is very partial to a cigarette holder in the form of a coiled serpent. Another with a Gemini ascendant, and the Sun and Venus in Scorpio, has a serpent bracelet. A nurse with Venus in Scorpio actually *likes* to handle dead bodies, and prepare people for burial! A relative with the Sun in Scorpio was always very fond of a painting of a shipwreck. It used to give me the "creeps" as a child, and I never understood why she liked the thing, until astrological symbolism shed some light on the matter.

Sporting prints, pictures of cathedrals, and kindred subjects are frequently Sagittarian. A man with Venus in Sagittarius has a collection of Indian bows and arrows. A boy with a Sagittarian ascendant has his room all covered with pictures of famous athletes, and sporting characters. Collections of firearms, or the spoils of foreign travel, usually indicate the Sagittarian influence as being strong.

Capricorn natives are strongly inclined toward mountain pictures, or they like things that come from countries strongly influenced by Capricorn—such as India or Mexico. In one or two instances there has been a liking for portraits of politicians or statesmen. I have noticed this in rural sections of New England, where Capricorn natives will have pictures of famous statesmen, or the current President, decorating their living room.[1] A man with Sun in Capricorn had a collection of pictures of Napoleon, and a large collection of books about him.

In the matter of clothing, Capricorn is inclined toward coats. I suppose this is because this outer garment is related to "shelter," and plays a large part in the appearance one makes in "public." Capricorn is often concerned with the *outer*, rather than the *inner*, appearance of anything. Cancer is frequently the opposite.

Aquarius symbolism isn't always obvious. Mrs. Burt's article mentions pottery water-jars as garden ornaments, but, from another angle, I think lodge emblems and insignia come under this sign, also group pictures of organisations, schools, etc. Aquarius, being the 11th house sign, bears a close relationship to the gregarious instinct, which finds expression through all

[1] Cp. the portraits of the ♑ Mr. Gladstone in British rural homes! —Ed.

these things. I have noticed that Aquarius natives like to have pictures of their friends about, either singly or in groups. Cancer often goes in strong for *family* groups, or pictures of the children when they were babies.

Pisces shows its fondness for animals, or expresses its mystical and religious leanings. There seems to be a particular soft spot in the heart of the Venus-in-Pisces person for elephants. One woman with Venus so placed buys every elephant ornament she sees. A friend who keeps an ivory elephant as a paper-weight has no Pisces influences, and it puzzled me until I learned that it had been given her by a relative—having Venus in Pisces, as I later discovered!—and that she kept it largely out of courtesy. She herself much preferred the three little monkeys that were carved upon the top of her cigarette box. She has a Gemini ascendant and, as you probably know, monkeys come under Gemini. It is amusing that the originator of this well-known group of three monkeys, with their hands over eyes, ears, and mouth, meaning, "See no evil; hear no evil; speak no evil," should have chosen this particular animal belonging to Gemini, while the three senses concerned bear a definite relationship to Mercury.

These bits are offered as suggestions for further research. Each of us finds avenues for self-expression in our choice of clothing, or ornament, and in the decoration and arrangement of our household furnishings, no matter how limited our income, or humble our surroundings. As the influence of our horoscopes makes us especially sensitive in some directions, and less so in others, it is through these dominant signs that we find our expression of unconscious astrological symbolism.

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

A TRAGEDY IN LIBRA

By "INTERPRES"

LOVE and friendship, beauty and joy, were the four compass points by which Coleridge set his life's course. Like the symbolic voyage of the Ancient Mariner, which was magically punctuated by the movements of the sun and moon, Coleridge's journey can be interpreted by "looking as high as the stars," and his life and poetry seen as a fascinating though tragic study in Libra.[1] Of his early poems (excluding the two longer "Effusions"), over half are love poems, mostly addressed to Sara, whom he married in his twenty-third year. The theme of two others is domestic bliss, and five are addressed to friends. These numbers, though not conclusive, show how strong were his feelings of love and his desire for association with others, even in his early years. And in several other poems, where the theme is not so obviously Libran, there is evidence of the same influence, if it is only his friendliness towards a young ass with which he would like to live in "peace and mild equality." The poetical level of these early verses, however, with the possible exception of "The Æolian Harp" and "Reflections on Having Left a Place of Retirement" (both idylls of happy married life), is not very high.

In 1797 he awoke. It is an interesting astrological fact that it was friendship that brought him into touch with his deeper self. For each zodiacal sign is the path as well as the goal of those born under it. And his friendship with Wordsworth was all the more

[1] S. T. Coleridge was born on October 21, 1772, and so had his Sun in Libra. Positions, as given in "Notable Nativities," are: Asc. 16♐, ☉ 29♎, ☽ 21♌, ☿ 17♎, ♀ 12♍, ♂ 28♋, ♃ 23♒, ♄ 10♍, ♅ 23♉ R, ♆ 16♍.

powerful, owing to the fact that Wordsworth was a son of Aries, his complementary sign. From July 1797 to midsummer 1798 there was a sudden and marvellous flowering, almost the only flowering, of Coleridge's poetic genius. These months saw the production of the romantic masterpieces, "The Ancient Mariner," the first part of "Christabel," and the haunting fragment "Kubla Khan," which are his chief contribution to English poetry, and it was then that he and Wordsworth planned together that book of rebellion, "Lyrical Ballads." For many years the spiritual intercourse between these two friends was unbroken. Coleridge even moved from Stowey to Keswick, after his return from Germany in 1797, in order to be near Wordsworth at Dove Cottage, and it was during this second period that the next part of "Christabel" was written. But it was their friendship on the Quantock Hills in 1797–8 that was so vital to the development of Coleridge's genius.

"The Nightingale" (the latter of the two Libran poems bearing that name) is a pleasant memorial of the friendship of these two and Dorothy Wordsworth during those fourteen months. "We were three people," said Coleridge, "but only one soul." On the April night commemorated in the poem, when he himself was blissfully happy with his friends, he could not think of the nightingale as a melancholy bird.

> My Friend, and thou, our Sister! we have learnt
> A different lore: we may not thus profane
> Nature's sweet voices, always full of love
> And joyance! 'Tis the merry Nightingale
> That crowds, and hurries, and precipitates
> With fast thick warble his delicious notes,
> As he were fearful that an April night
> Would be too short for him to utter forth
> His love-chant, and disburthen his full soul
> Of all its music!

In the light of his tremendous poetical activity in these months at Stowey, the nightingale becomes a symbol of Coleridge—and a tragically ironic one, for that "April night" of his genius was indeed all too short for Coleridge

> to utter forth
> His love-chant, and disburthen his full soul
> Of all its music.

In two other notable poems he celebrates his friendship with Wordsworth. The famous ode, "Dejection," was first addressed to him, and the fact that in the original text he speaks to the friend who was with him in his brief hour of greatness increases the tragedy. The other poem was written on the night when Wordsworth finished reciting to him at Coleorton that immortal poem on the growth of his own mind. There Coleridge realised the contrast in achievement between himself and his friend. He also pays tribute to Wordsworth's friendship and recognises its value. For Wordsworth performed that greatest office of a friend —helping him to know and realise his higher self. The closing lines show how powerfully Wordsworth effected this, and it is interesting to notice that Coleridge experienced upliftment and communion with his "nobler mind," not only through the medium of a friend but also in that divine circle of Libra, a happy home. These two poems, characteristically Libran, one for its humility, the other for its unselfish joy in another's greatness, are tragic studies. But Coleridge has written poems of friendship that are extremely happy. Such is "This Lime Tree Bower My Prison," addressed to his lifelong friend Charles Lamb, and showing very charmingly his power of entering into the joys of others. Wordsworth, in "The Prelude," apostrophised him thus:

O capacious Soul!
Placed on this earth to love and understand.

Criticism bears out this view, as can be seen in his portrait by Dowden, one of his ablest critics—a typical portrait in Libra. "There was in Coleridge a sensuous quality, rich yet delicate, a wide receptivity of manifold influences, a loose, ungirt power of emotion, a heart warm and soft with a constant craving for affection."

In almost all of his poems evidence can be found of his solar sign. Eighteen of his poems in *Sybilline Leaves* he classified as "love poems," while in his lament, "The Blossoming of the Solitary Date Tree," his attitude to life is clear. To him Beauty and Love were bound up with each other. "What no one with us shares, seems scarce our own. . . . The finer the sense for the beautiful and the lovely, and the fairer and lovelier the object presented to the sense, the more exquisite the individual's capacity of joy, and the more ample his means and opportunities of enjoyment." The MS. of the first two stanzas of this poem was lost. Coleridge's prose draft of their contents and some half-recollected lines show that we have lost in these verses a real Libran gem. How true to his solar type is Coleridge, when he says, in "The Pains of Sleep,"

To be loved is all I need,
And whom I love, I love indeed.

or, when he writes to his wife, "I am deeply convinced that if I were to remain a few years among objects for whom I had no affection, I should wholly lose the powers of intellect. Love is the vital air of my genius." How different from the self-impassioned, almost self-centred spirit of the solitary Wordsworth. The first

verse of "Love" has the sacred grandeur of some hymn to Venus, remembered from old times, while "Youth and Age" is one of the most exquisite pictures in English of a life of love and joy and friendship.

> Flowers are lovely; Love is flower-like;
> Friendship is a sheltering tree;
> O the Joys, that came down shower-like,
> Of Friendship, Love, and Liberty.

The moral of "The Ancient Mariner" (for the seventh part points a moral in spite of Coleridge's vehement denial in "Table Talk") is love, tempered with humility and justice. Nor is it insignificant that the punishment he devised for the Mariner was the curse of loneliness. The Mariner's restoration in Part 4 is a great psychological study in Libra. He despised the sea-serpents, even as he had killed the friendly albatross. He is restored to himself as he opens his heart to love and joy and beauty. For, to quote from the gloss accompanying the poem, "By the light of the Moon he beholdeth God's creatures of the great calm. Their beauty and their happiness. He blesseth them in his heart. The spell begins to break."

Nowhere, however, has Coleridge thrown more light upon his inner life than in his ode, "Dejection." Here are described the exaltation and the fall of Libra. From boyhood Coleridge had suffered from continual ill-health, and his increasing use of opium, as an anodyne for resulting mental depression, had begun to have its terrible effects. In lines, charged with the spiritual powers of Venus, he sings of the joy that once was his:

> O pure of heart! thou need'st not ask of me
> What this strong music in the soul may be!
> What, and wherein it doth exist,
> This light, this glory, this fair luminous mist,

This beautiful and beauty-making power.
Joy, virtuous Lady! Joy that ne'er was given
Save to the pure, and in their purest hour,
Life, and Life's effluence, cloud at once and shower.

But now Venus is in eclipse, and the sign of Libra is darkened. Coleridge experiences only

A grief without a pang, void, dark, and drear.

Nor do the beauties of Nature, the evening, "the new-moon winter-bright" move him at all. As he realises in that hour, his tragedy is a spiritual one; the cure also must be spiritual.

I may not hope from outward forms to win
The passion and the life, whose fountains are within.

In this "calm hopelessness" (to quote from a letter of his), when his spiritual faculties lie in a state of "suspended animation," he is undergoing the crucifixion of the spirit in Libra.

It is the tragic theme of many of his later poems, few though they are. Wordsworth's recitation of "The Prelude" stirred him for a while. But with that brief quickening there came a realisation of his own wasted opportunities. Many of the poems in what he called "Prose in Rhyme" are elegies on the death of Libra, in which

th' estranged heart lets know
The absence of the love, which yet it fain would show.

"A Song," "Phantom or Fact?" "Love's Apparition and Evanishment," with its famous simile—these are sad confessions. Two at least have the old poetical magic. One is the lament, "Work Without Hope; the other, that lovely thing, "Youth and Age." But the latter, in spite of the bold assertion at its close that

joy and happiness are still his, is really a pathetic pretence.

His unhappiness was increased still further at this time by the fact that he gradually drifted away from his friends. His tender lines on a broken friendship in "Christabel" could then have been applied to himself. And he separated even from his wife. In the allegory, "The Pang More Sharp Than All," he laments the domestic love and happiness he once possessed. But he knows that, though he cannot express that love, or indeed feel it, it is always there. At heart, in spite of everything, he is a Libran still. While mourning for Love, "the faery Boy that's lost and gone," he says,

> Ah! He is gone, and yet will not depart!
> Is with me still, yet I from him exiled!
> For still there lives within my secret heart
> The magic image of the magic child.

In 1816 Coleridge took a definite stand against his enemy opium, and placed himself under the care of Dr. Gillman, of Highgate. There he conquered

> This body that does me grievous wrong,

and the last part of his life was a subdued melody of joy. Too late for poetry, it was not too late for friendship, old and new. But his life was really a tragedy, and it was only a ghost of his former self that was resurrected for a few pale years of happiness.

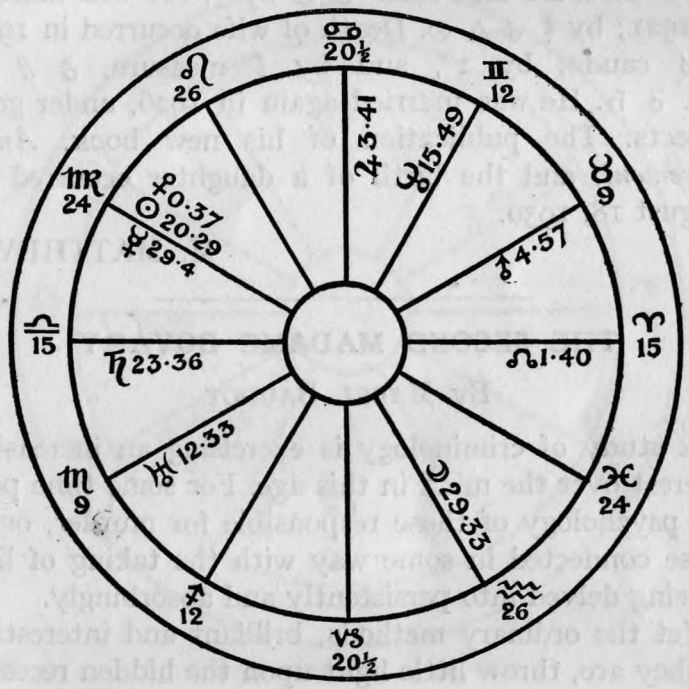
A typical Libran in his great gifts for life and poetry, he was also a Libran in his failings. In one of his letters he paints his own portrait. "My face, unless when animated by immediate eloquence, expresses great sloth, and great, indeed almost idiotic, good-nature." Wordsworth's characteristically Arian fault in his poetic life was overproduction, and misuse of

energy. Coleridge's was the opposite. Lost in manifold, airy speculations, he was always a great "to-morrower." His mind was, as he himself said, so "comprehensive in its conceptions," so happy in the "contemplation of the many things which it might do," that most were never done, or never completed. The number and the magnitude of the works which he had planned, mainly in his later years, but never finished are a sad proof of this.

Beauty, when all is said, is the greatest charm of his poetry. Few have excelled him in the balancing of metre and rhythm, or the wedding of ideas and words. But this beauty is found, to quote a critic, only in "one complete poem, perhaps the most original in the language, two fragments, a ballad, and some melancholy strains of regret—the last red leaves on a tree that had promised a splendid fruitage." Crabb Robinson, in commenting on a lecture by Coleridge on *Hamlet*, made this significant entry. " 'Action,' he said, 'is the great end of all; no intellect, however grand, is valuable if it draws us from action, and leads us to think and think till the time of action is passed and we can do nothing.' Somebody said to me, 'This is a satire on himself.' 'No,' said I, 'it is an elegy.' "

THE NATUS OF A FAMOUS AUTHOR

THIS is the map of J. B. Priestley, the noted author and critic, born at Bradford, September 13, 1894, time (given by himself) 8 a.m. It is an interesting map with many aspects. ♄ rises, exalted, trine ☽ and ♆ in airy signs; ♆ is also in close trine to the asc. from



9th house. These positions may be taken as giving a calm, thoughtful, patient, harmonious temperament, and denote a profound thinker, very imaginative, with love of music and romance.

Jupiter is very well placed, being exalted in ♋, in its own house, well aspecting ♀, ☽, and ♂. This shows inner development of the ego, love of philosophy, and in external matters general good luck. As ♃ is ⚹

the ruler it gives a generous, sympathetic nature. There is much Mercurial influence, which indicates power of criticism, and intuition. All the benefics are elevated, which is sure to bring fortune. His ♆ and ☉ are in literary degrees, with the ruler of 3rd △ ruler of M.C. His book, *The Good Companions*, was one of last year's great successes, with ♆ to M.C., asc. ✶ ☉ by 1° measure and ruler ♂ ☉ by ⅘. He was married in 1921; by ⅘ ♂ △ ☉. Death of wife occurred in 1925, ♀ ♂ cauda, by 1°, and by ¼ measure, ♂ ☍ ♅, asc. ♂ ♄. He was married again in 1926, under good aspects. The publication of his new book, *Angel Pavement*, and the birth of a daughter occurred on August 18, 1930.

M. MATTHEWS.

THE SECOND MADAME BOVARY

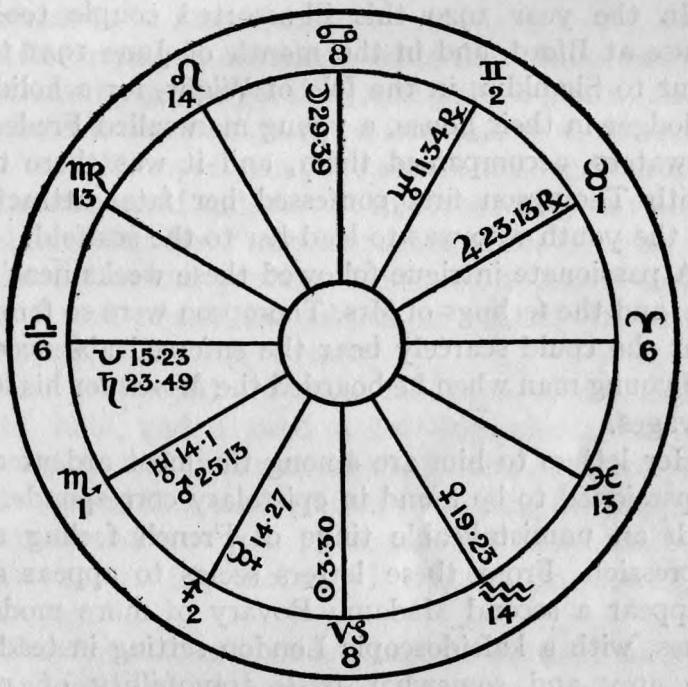
By MABEL BAUDOT

THE study of criminology is exercising an increasing interest over the mind in this age. For some time past the psychology of those responsible for murder, or of those connected in some way with the taking of life, is being delved into persistently and absorbingly.

Yet the ordinary methods, brilliant and interesting as they are, throw little light upon the hidden recesses of the criminal mentality. The effects are seen, but not the peculiar or mysterious motives which led up to the effects. It is not an easy task to trace these turbid rivers back to their sources, for their ways are, for the most part, essentially devious and winding ones.

Here, we think, astrology can come to the aid of the psychologists and, "deeper than ever plummet sounded," lead back to the hidden springs of first causes, primary motives.

On the 6th day of December, 1922, Edith Jessie Thompson was tried for murder, together with Frederick Bywaters, in one of the most celebrated and sensational trials which this country has ever known. This event, which filled the newspapers and was the subject of conversation and conjecture everywhere, took place at the Central Criminal Court, London.



LONDON 0.20 A.M. 25.12.1893.

Edith Thompson was on trial as an accessory to the murder of Percy Thompson, a shipping clerk to a city firm. She was the wife of the victim. Her profession was that of book-keeper to a firm of wholesale milliners, and she was within a few weeks of her twenty-ninth birthday. Bywaters, aged twenty-two, a laundry steward in the service of the P. and O. Steamship Company, was her acknowledged lover.

Percy Thompson had married Edith Greydon in the year 1915. She was four years his junior. According to all evidence, she was a particularly capable business woman, and the fact that she earned a larger salary than her husband seems to have been the cause of much jealousy on his part and to have fomented many domestic quarrels from the very beginning.

In the year 1920 this ill-assorted couple took a house at Ilford, and in the month of June 1921 they went to Shanklin, in the Isle of Wight, for a holiday. A lodger in their house, a young man called Frederick Bywaters, accompanied them, and it was there that Edith Thompson first confessed her fatal attraction for the youth who was to lead her to the scaffold.

A passionate intrigue followed these weeks near the sea, and the feelings of Mrs. Thompson were so fervent that she could scarcely bear the enforced absences of the young man when he boarded the *Morea* for his long voyages.

Her letters to him are among the most ardent and impassioned to be found in epistolary correspondence, with an unmistakeable tinge of French feeling and expression. From these letters seems to appear and reappear a second Madame Bovary of more modern times, with a kaleidoscopic London setting instead of the grey and somewhat *triste* tranquillity of provincial France.

Mr. Filson Young, in his powerful and evocative book on Edith Thompson, describes her in these words:

"There were people present at her trial who were connoisseurs in women and scholars of their character, and who are able to recognise behind the most sordid disguise the presence of that something which lifts a woman out of whatever class she belongs to and sets her in a class apart—the class of influencing, com-

pelling, driving, beckoning women who have power over men, and through them, over the world."

Edith Thompson's letters, which may be regarded as the crux of the whole complicated situation, were preserved by Bywaters. She wisely destroyed those he wrote to her. These written words were instrumental in causing the trial to turn against her, and the death sentence to be pronounced.

After repeated meetings with the young man, in restaurants, public gardens, and hidden places, during his brief homecomings, the affair became so obnoxious to Percy Thompson that the scenes and recriminations between himself and his wife increased daily in violence and intensity. Her communications to her lover became more urgent and pressing. Her mind appeared to turn round and round the subject of poison. An extract from one of her letters reads:

"I was buoyed up with the hope of the electric light bulb, and I used a lot—big pieces, too—not powdered, and it has no effect. I quite expected to be able to send that cable—but no—nothing has happened from it, and now your letter tells me about the bitter taste again. Oh darlint! I do feel so down and unhappy!"

She began to send him gruesome cuttings from the newspapers which specialise in crime. *Bella Donna*, Robert Hichens's creation—the adventuress who married a lovable man and poisoned him at the instigation of her Egyptian lover!—*Bella Donna* is discussed at great length. There are headings reading, "Deadly Powder Posted to Oxford Chancellor"; "Ground Glass in Box"; "Poisoned Chocolates for University Chief"; "Visits to a Chinese Restaurant"; all these are commented upon, and with them phrases upon which, it would seem, but one construction can be placed.

At length Bywaters returned to England on September 23rd, and never again set foot on his ship. The oncoming tide of this singular triangular drama was rapid from this date. The final tidal wave submerged all three in October 1922.

On the third day of that month, Percy Thompson and his wife had been to the Criterion Theatre. He returned afterwards with her by train to the suburb of Ilford, where they lived. At midnight, upon arriving at the local station they walked to Kensington Gardens, where their house stood, but as they were going along a long and drab thoroughfare called the Belgravia Road, a figure leaped out of the surrounding shadows and stabbed Percy Thompson violently in the neck.

His wife, in the wildest agitation, appealed to some passers-by for help, and they sought medical assistance, but when they hurried back to Thompson with a doctor he had already passed away.

So the victim lay slain upon the London pavement, and here was the end of this painful romance. She had always been seeking "a way out," but need seek the way no more; Frederick Bywaters, in a sudden attack of violence and brutality, had provided it for her.

A witness has held in his hand the weapon with which the young man stabbed Thompson. His blood was still upon it. The weapon was a hunting-knife—one carried in a sheath and often used by seamen, to whom a sharp instrument is a necessity.

It was keen and long, and a man attacked in the neck with it, as was the case with the unfortunate victim, could not have many minutes to live after such a vicious thrust.

Young Bywaters, a few hours before he died on the scaffold, made a dramatic statement. He declared that

he was absolutely intoxicated with strong drink when he committed the murder. He said he had asked Edith Thompson to go out with him on the night of the crime. She had refused, saying that an arrangement had been made to visit the theatre with her husband and she could not alter this.

Bywaters left her angrily, got drunk, heard from her family that she was at the Criterion Theatre, followed the pair down the Ilford Road and suddenly saw Percy Thompson put his arm round his wife's waist and make a gesture of affection which was not repulsed by her. This act infuriated the already angered man. He darted out upon his victim and drove home the fatal stab.

This drama of love and death ended in the double execution of the two remaining protagonists. Edith Thompson was hanged on January 9th at Holloway Prison, and her lover met his end upon the same morning at Pentonville.

And now we will call into play the horoscope which, to transpose a celebrated line, may be regarded as "the fierce light which beats upon the soul."

Libra is rising, a very infrequent sign in criminal charts, but the degree is 6, quite near to the degree 8, mentioned by Mr. Carter as being much in evidence in cases of immorality and peculiar erotic conduct. Maurice Wemyss describes 7° of Libra as one of life and death. Moreover, this very sensitive point squares the Sun in Capricorn 3°. Saturn is in the ascendant, and the subtle and persistent undercurrent of the planet of destiny becomes apparent, since the rising degree of the sign in which he is placed and exalted aspects unfavourably the Sun, in Saturn's sign. The Sun is also opposed by the Midheaven, and is not good for the men who came into Edith Thompson's life in

a domestic and still deeper sense. We must remember that Bywaters was a lodger in the Thompson household, and his entry was the storm signal for the emotional tempest which drove all three on jagged and lethal rocks.

The only planet aspecting the Sun is Jupiter, which is in sesquiquadrate from the 8th house, a menacing position, as the solar orb is not far from the cusp of the 4th. The moral integrity would seem to have been weakened by this, and the ambition and egotism rather strengthened. A good aspect to the Sun would have given great assistance in this map, but there is none to be traced, and the position to Jupiter caused a double life, and a certain duplicity which led to complication upon complication. It has been frequently observed that a difficult ray between the Sun and the Greater Benefic has the tendency to bring the subject to a hospital, asylum, or prison.[1] A lack of straightforwardness is shown here—a tendency to travel by tortuous and devious ways.

The ruler of the horoscope, an unregulated Venus, holds the actual clue to the temperament under discussion. It is in the 5th house, the domain of the emotions and love affairs, in Aquarius, which under affliction can be decidedly unconventional, and from this position casts difficult and complex vibrations round the chart. A triple square is formed by the planet to Uranus and Mars in Scorpio, and to Jupiter in Taurus. The fixity of these aspects, both by signs and houses, seems to keep Venus in a stranglehold. Karmically, Venus appears to have been much abused in the past. Actually the planet represents young Bywaters, who, judging from his photographs, is

[1] Such aspects are not uncommon in maps of crime arising from circumstances of covert marital infidelity.—Ed.

strongly Taurean with secondary Martial elements. The square of the ruler to Uranus and Mars is rendered still more dangerous by the opposition of both these planets to Jupiter. Impulse, ardour, love of pleasure, lack of self-control, and unrestraint are shown by this interplay. In addition, Venus is *approaching* the square of Mars, and also *approaching* the square of Jupiter in the sphere of death, in Taurus.

It is not without a shudder that one realises that Taurus rules the throat, and the end was by hanging. Inevitably this affair led slowly but surely to the terrible climax, and "a pair of ill-starred lovers met their death" through their failure to recognise the rights and claims of others.

In appearance, Edith Thompson was an interesting but intriguing mixture of Venus and Saturn. Her facial alterations appeared to be as swift and sudden as lightning. It has been said that the verdict in court would sometimes be that she was beautiful—or again, that she was merely pretty. Then fatigue or fear would operate and all her beauty would disappear in a flash, and a hard, unwinning expression take its place. No two drawings of her show the same woman; the photographs do not agree; an enigmatical face, an arresting one, changeable and baffling to the end.

The position of Venus in Aquarius is worthy of note. This Uranian-ruled sign (for it seems to be coming more and more under the influence of the transcendental planet) is capable, under provocation, of decidedly peculiar and unconventional ideas and actions regarding amatory affairs. If a slight digression may be allowed, one has only to think of the conditions of Russia, ruled by Aquarius, under the present Soviet régime!

The very fixity of this sign, when conflicting rays play upon it, bring out its "dynamo" qualities along

undesirable lines, and the stored-up energy of this fine sign, which should be used for progress, spiritual advancement, and the good of humanity, flashes forth in destructive sparks reminiscent of Inferno and a malevolent light from undiscovered sources of evil.

The Moon holds a prominent place, in the Midheaven, in the last degree of its own sign, Cancer. It is potent by position and sign, evidencing the strength of the personality. Luna is in square to Saturn in Libra, and the planet of Fate possesses the power of weighing the soul in the balance in this, his exaltation sphere. Much scope for advance and growth, yes, but also a corresponding power to cast his dark and karmic rings round those who have not made an effort to step beyond these limitations. Saturn surely represents the unfortunate Percy Thompson. The differences and perpetual disagreements are shown by the unfavourable ray to the Moon, and conjunction with the Dragon's Tail and opposition to the Head make matters still more difficult, as Luna's weight is loaded yet more heavily against him, in angles in every case.

He was fond of domesticity, and Edith's unbalanced love for the intruder—tenacious, persistent—worried him extremely. It was a menace to his personal happiness, and he foresaw in it the disintegration of his home life. The debacle came even sooner than the poor man anticipated. But before continuing with Saturn, the other aspects of the Moon must be considered. There is a sesquiquadrate to Mercury, which undoubtedly increased the imagination, but also reinforced her tendency towards sensationalism and the changeability and love of variety which are noticeable traits.

She was also somewhat dual and evidently entertained two sets of opinions at the same time, even quite contradictory ones. It must have been very

difficult for her to understand herself on occasions, and at others there was an utter absence of hesitation —a direct, forcible, unflinching "drive" towards the object of her desires. The desire nature is particularly strong. The Moon has a fine trine to Mars, giving her much executive ability, energy, and vitality. She did not shirk hard work, and was resourceful and enterprising.

She was greatly valued as a book-keeper by the firm of milliners who employed her. It has been reported on good authority that the head of the firm has never entirely recovered from the shock of her conviction and death. He had a very high opinion of her ability and quick intelligence. She was not afraid of responsibility and was seldom taken at a disadvantage; handled money cleverly and was trustworthy with the accounts. In addition to the trine to Mars, we have a sextile to Jupiter. Another favourable sign for the imagination, fertility of ideas, and artistic inclinations. Beauty, art, colour, and scenery must have had a potent appeal for her. There is a sensuous bias toward loveliness and luxury. Intense enthusiasm in pleasure. Love of order and harmonious arrangement, also good taste in dress and decoration. But sensationalism, shown by the high position of the Moon, was the *leitmotif*. Always she craved romance, excitement, a colourful or peculiar *mise en scène*, and mysterious situations. When these were disappointingly infrequent in everyday life, she sought for them avidly in books. Romantic novels were devoured untiringly, and seemed to have the effect of working her up to a still greater pitch of enthusiasm for adventures and dramatic events. Like Disraeli, she would have liked "life to be a long and glittering procession."

The opposition of Mars and Uranus in 2nd to Jupiter

in 8th is very curious from the psychological point of view. This still further enhances the love of luxury and pleasure, and also gives a very keen realisation of money, and fondness of possessions. She would have left Percy Thompson and vanished overseas with Bywaters (this was a profound and constant wish in her mind) but her money was tied up in a joint account with that of her husband, and she felt the utmost distaste at the prospect of facing any poverty or privation.

She thought all this out, longed to go, planned to go—but stayed! This matter-of-fact turn of mind regarding financial matters can be plainly discerned in Mars and Uranus in Scorpio in the house of money, opposing Jupiter in the stable and luxury-loving Taurus. An ardent worshipper at the shrine of King Midas, she could not contemplate desertion of this cult. There must have been a strange interplay where all questions of need and supply were concerned. Here the emotional expansiveness of Jupiter was suddenly contracted by the realisation that flight would imply a shortage of means—consequently a curtailment of ease and pleasure. The romantic, *couleur de rose* side of her nature gave battle royal for a space to the materialistic side—and romance lost the day. Libra loves beauty and the refinement and culture of life. The loss of money frequently causes the glow and glamour of romance to die away. The French wisely say that "Le coeur a ses raisons que la raison ne connaît pas," but here Reason had its hard and fast reasons that the Heart would not understand. It was said that she did not seem willing to make any sacrifice for her young lover.

Her love of romance, mystery, and her strange and potent attraction towards poison is shown in the posi-

tion of Mars and Uranus in Scorpio, a chemical sign having a strong relationship to drugs, and the opposition to Jupiter in the 8th indubitably prompted the idea of experimenting upon her husband with broken electric-light bulbs and small pieces of glass. In one of her letters to Bywaters we find this question: "Wouldn't the stuff make small pills coated together with soap and dipped in liquorice powder?"

The analysis of Thompson's body revealed no trace whatever of broken glass or poison of any kind, so it is undoubted that the constant harping on this subject and the plotting and scheming went on as a process in her mind only, remaining a persistent, gnawing desire, but never carried into execution.

This secrecy and mystery would be very gratifying to an afflicted Mars and Uranus in Scorpio, with the ill-starred ruler, Venus, standing in the prompter's box, as it were, to give a further urge to this bizarre and gruesome mental fantasy.

Mercury is in Sagittarius in the 3rd. A quick, inventive, and clever mind is evidenced, intuitive, rapid in its summing-up, fertile in resources. She had a certain talent for the spoken and written word, and wrote plays for her brother and sister to act when she was quite a child. Literature held a great attraction for her, and her predilection for the sensational and *outré* in fiction has already been commented upon. Robert Hichens's *Bella Donna* was mentioned several times at the trial at the Old Bailey.

This ever-appearing thread, the tendency towards the over-glittering and abnormal, is wound round the entire horoscope, interknitting almost all the planets.

The opposition of Mercury to Neptune from mental houses is most suggestive of this. Also dire trouble, scandal, and terrible exposure from correspondence is

prophesied from this aspect. The epistles travelled far. Distance over the ocean is shown—Neptune is in the sphere of far-distant horizons. They were received upon the seas, but Mercury, the sender of them, remained at home, in the house of short transits. Those fatal letters! One thinks involuntarily of the wise old French proverb: "The spoken word wings its flight away; the written word remains!" The sextile of Mercury to Venus is a very fine one, and again brings up the pleasant qualities of this dualistic character. There is a sense of responsibility in business, agreeable ways, social *savoir-faire*, tact, and a certain amount of foresight. She must have possessed a happy way with children and probably had a love and understanding of animals.

The semi-sextile to Uranus is also helpful, as are the close trine and sextile to the Moon's nodes. The quicksilver planet is certainly the best aspected in the horoscope. It has been written of her: "In another humbler station, as the *ouvriere* in a theatre, what opportunities would have been hers among the rich men who haunt the boxes of the playhouse! She was not a moral woman—and she was ambitious beyond her station. Riches would undoubtedly have become her portion. We should have seen her at night clubs and the great hotels. Her pictures would have been in the illustrated papers, and she would have achieved a marriage which the town would have applauded but the peerage rebuked. All this would have been possible to Edith Thompson in the vicinity of Shaftesbury Avenue. It was wholly impossible at Kensington Gardens, Ilford!"

And the birth-chart shows why it was impossible. Thrown back upon her own resources, denied the colour, perfumes, *objets de luxe*, and great possessions

generally which her mind craved for, her gnawing ambition unfulfilled, she threw her energy, heart, and soul into the intrigue with the young laundry steward of the *Morea*.

The tension and the planetary tug-of-war between the powerful dominating Mars in the house where thought is generated, and in Scorpio, and the luxury-loving Jupiter in Taurus from fixed signs and succedent houses, must have been terrific in their onslaught, fierce and destructive in their intensity.

Saturn holds the balance, but he is actively engaged in his own conflict with the Moon; the personality holds so much of his attention. An elevated, powerful Moon in her own sign! The soul is nearly always in a critical state of its evolution when the ringed planet occupies the sign of the balance. And each decanate of Libra is represented: by rising decan, Dragon's Tail, and finally by what, by Edith Thompson, might have been considered as the loaded dice of the gods, Saturn. The sign is transposed from the 7th to 1st, showing that the working out of the destiny would be through matrimony—and Venus in the complex sphere of the senses and emotions. Truly a strange accumulation of planetary powers and forces are "on this chequer-board of nights and days!"

Uranus comes as an ally to Mars; his electric *élan* and tremendous force are always very powerful in the dynamo of Scorpio. He only serves to hasten the end, as he directs his incalculable batteries against Jupiter in the 8th—and Jupiter is very near Algol, the most dangerous fixed star in the heavens. It should be noted that Mars is in *direct* opposition to this formidable point in the death house. The old astrologers wrote: "If Algol is in conflict with Mars, death ensues, hanging or decapitation by judicial sentence."

Neptune is just within a trine of Venus—and once more we have the love of beauty, art, flowers, music, literature, moving her from the air trinity, always so much in affinity with life's lovelier and more harmonious conditions, and repelled by its sordid and painful aspects. There is no doubt that this woman suffered atrociously, for we find some vivid and arresting traits in the good positions, and even the difficult aspects are capable of a wonderful transmutation.

We feel there is great hope for the future, in the trine from the karmic 5th house, where Venus holds sway, to the "Beckoner from Beyond" in Gemini in the prophetic 9th. Neptune also throws favourable rays to the Nodes.

He will help her

> To suffer a sea change
> Into something new and strange.

The death sentence, from the astrologer's point of view, is now an anachronism—a very undesirable one. The culprit is thrown out with all his imperfections on his head. Surely a space for reflection and repentance would bring about a more satisfactory state of mind. We all require time to look before and after!

In this case the planets are kinder than man-made laws; for the 9th, with its vista of the future, indicates hope. There is never a total shipwreck of a human life—for always the soul remains as salvage.

. . . . . .

A word or two as to progression. Edith Thompson had reached her 29th birthday fifteen days before the date of her execution.

Saturn plays an important rôle in this grim event. The new ascendant was 26° Libra, and the progressed

Saturn was 25° of this sign just above the degree. Again, he appears in the transit for the time being in 7° Libra (the Wemyss degree of life and death) on January 9th, 1922, in almost exact conjunction with the natal ascending degree.

Mercury is in 28° Capricorn, in close opposition to the radical Moon in Cancer, and Neptune has descended to the 8th house, still in opposition to the birthplace of Mercury.

At the time of death the "Age along the Zodiac" was 29° ♈ □ ☽r. in 29° ♎.

Jupiter is just below the cusp of the progressed 8th, in 21° ♉ having retrograded closer to the menacing square of the radical Venus.

A consoling reflection is that the transitting Jupiter, being in a fine trine with the ruler and also trining Neptune, must have procured the unfortunate woman the boon of passing out under the influence of a pain-dispelling Neptunian drug, rendering the things of this world unreal and phantasmagoric as the events of a dream.

This is not meant as an exhaustive study of a most interesting map. The readers of *Astrology* will doubtless discover many more landmarks and secret orchards while studying this chart of a tempest-tossed soul.

The words of Othello come to our minds while we examine it:

> Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught to malice

WINTER WEATHER (GREAT BRITAIN)

By L. PROTHEROE SMITH

THE winter of 1930–31 will be notable, astronomically, for the strong aspects of Jupiter to Uranus and Saturn. Unfortunately there is always a certain element of doubt, at least in my own mind, regarding the mutual configurations of these bodies at this time of year. In summer they disturb the atmosphere and almost invariably induce a broken type of weather; but in winter their effects are of a more uncertain and variable kind. Sometimes stormy and unsettled conditions result, in which case the temperature is mild; while at other times there seems to be a marked tendency to anticyclone formation, leading to cold, dry weather. The former result seems to be the more likely in the present instance, for Venus is closely setting at the solar ingress, with Mercury near the midheaven in sextile to Venus and opposed to Jupiter. On the whole, therefore, the winter will probably be mild, with a good deal of rain and at times wind, but also many sunny periods. In the latter half of February, however, Saturn transits the place of Mercury at ingress, so that there is likely to be cold weather about that time.

December.—A very wintry spell will be experienced in the middle of December, from about the 12th to the 16th (♄ □ ♅, ☿ ☌ ♄, □ ♅). Weather should be dry, but extremely cold. There is likely to be severe frost, and perhaps strong winds also.

Temperature will rise considerably about the 17th, the weather becoming very mild during the next few days, with fair periods predominating (☿ ☍ ♃). Temperature will very likely fall suddenly about the

21st (♅ St.), but should quickly rise above normal again.

Following the Solstice, mild but very unsettled weather will prevail for several days, and there are likely to be strong winds also (♀ ☍ asc. ☿ M.C., St. on the 27th). Rain is probable in most districts on Christmas Eve (☽ □ ♀) and Christmas Day (☽ ☍ ♆), but on Boxing Day bright periods should occur (☽ △ ♃).

A day or two of fine, sunny, and mild weather is likely about the 29th, but on New Year's Eve a distinct fall of temperature is probable.

January.—At the beginning of January, Venus is in sextile to the Moon's place at ingress, and the weather will be rather unsettled and probably cold (♀ ∠ ♄, ☉ □ ♅).

Between the 4th and 10th the Sun, Mercury, Jupiter, and Saturn are all in direct line of conjunction and opposition. It is more than a hundred years (December 30, 1811) since Jupiter and Saturn were opposed from Cancer–Capricorn in the winter months, and records show that the weather on that occasion was distinctly severe, with frost and snow. History may repeat itself, but I am inclined to believe that on this occasion, owing to the disturbing influence of Mercury, conditions will be mild, unsettled, and stormy.

During the middle period of the month, from the 11th to the 20th, the weather will be mild and unsettled, with frequent rain (♀ □ ♆, △ ♂, △ ♅). Strong winds will probably occur on the 11th, when the Sun transits the place of Mercury at ingress.

Between the 21st and 23rd, cold weather is likely for a day or two.

During the last week of the month, unsettled con-

ditions will probably predominate, with mostly mild temperatures. A stormy tendency may be in evidence about the 28th (☿ □ ♅, ☌ ♃).

February.—At the beginning of February the weather will probably be cold and dry. Jupiter is square to Uranus exact, which, as previously suggested, is a doubtful influence; but the sun is sextile Uranus, with Mercury conjunction Saturn, so that seasonable conditions appear to be indicated.

On the 6th Mercury transits the meridian of the solstice figure in sextile to the place of Venus, and the weather is likely to be mild, unsettled, and stormy for two or three days, although with bright intervals.

Between the 9th and the 11th, cold and dry conditions are probable, but about the 12th the weather is likely to be stormy, with rain, and the temperature should be mild (☿ ☌ ♂, ☉ □ ♀ place at ingress). A mild unsettled type is likely to prevail until after the 16th, with rain and fair periods (♀ ☌ ♃, ☉ □ ♃).

About the 18th a period of wintry conditions will probably set in, as Saturn moves up to the place of Mercury at ingress. Snow is not unlikely about the 18th (♀ □ ♅), with further showers about the 24th (♀ ☍ ♄), but otherwise the weather should be mostly dry.

Rain and mild temperatures are likely at the end of the month (♀ ☍ M.C., solstice : ☉ ∠ ♀).

March.—The weather should be mainly fair and mild at the beginning of March (☉ △ ♃). Low temperatures with occasional wintry showers are likely about the 5th and 6th (☿ ∠ ♄, ☌ ♆); but later, from about the 7th to the 10th, conditions will be fine and mild (♂ St. ♃ St. ☿ △ ♃).

Between the 11th and the 14th, weather will be cold and dry (☉ ✶ ♄, ☿ ✶ ♄).

About the 15th, temperature will rise and there will be general rain, accompanied by fresh or strong winds (☉ ☌ ☿, △ ♀ place at ingress).

Weather is likely to be mild during the remaining days of the quarter, with occasional rain but considerable fine periods (☿ △ ♂, ☉ △ ♂, ♀ ✶ ♅).

THE AUTHENTIC MAP OF HELEN KELLER

By M. MATTHEWS

BIRTH MAP

X	XI	XII	I	II	III
♍	♎	♏	♏	♐	♒
5	7	3	25	26	0
♆ ♉	♅ ♍	♄ ♈		♃ ♈	♂ ♌
13.42	5.48	27.23		16.51	15.46
☉ ♋	♀ ♋	☿ ♌		☽ ♓	☊ ♑
6.31	2.5	0.15		18.23	6.31

PRE-NATAL EPOCH

X	XI	XII	I	II	III
♊	♋	♌	♍	♎	♏
17	20	20	18	14	14
♆ ♉	♅ ♍	♄ ♈		♃ ♓	♂ ♉
11.26 ℞	6.50	12.28 ℞		3.53 ℞	28.45
☉ ♎	♀ ♍	☿ ♎		☽ ♉	☊ ♑
10.48	24.55 ℞	9.33		25.21	20.41

Since my speculative map of Helen Keller appeared in *Astrology*, the time of her birth has been obtained from her secretary by an American gentleman. It is "about 4 p.m." This works out 2½ minutes past four by the epoch, which I give. I had thought she had much Scorpio, as that sign occupied most of the 1st house in the figure I worked out, but actually it rises. Ruler

Mars is in Leo in 9th house △ ♃, both in fiery signs, showing her interest in philosophy, love of travel, and enthusiastic, warm-hearted nature. Scorpios generally have difficult fates, and here ♂ has the □ of ♆ to contend with.

Uranus in this map is the most prominent planet, right on the M.C. in good aspect to ☉, ♀, the Nodes, and ♆, showing a unique character and uncommon fate.

The ☉ is in exact ☌ with Cauda in 8th house, which may be connected with her loss of sight. At the time of her illness ☽ was ♈ 9, □ prog. ☉, ☐ asc. rad. By transit then her ruler ♂ was stationary in ♊ 27 on cusp 8.

Mercury, ruler of the M.C., is on the cusp of 9th house, trine asc., the asc. coming to exact trine when her teacher first came, early 1887.

She has a wonderful zest for life, and love of Nature and outdoor life, the sign ♐ having been on prog. asc. most of her life, her ruler being in 9th, in decanate of ♐, △ ♃. She has travelled all over the United States and elsewhere on lecturing tours. "During autumn 1913 we were for the first time constantly on the road"—with prog. ☽ in ♊ ✶ ☿. "January 1914 started our first tour across the continent."

At the end of 1918 she went to Hollywood and acted for the films, and in winter 1920 went into vaudeville till spring of 1924. During that time prog. ☉ was going ☌ rad. ♂, △ ♃ in 5th—also ♀, ☿, ☽ in Leo—rad. ♆ coming to prog. 5th cusp winter 1920.

The Epoch figure shows Venus rising trine ☽, ♂, in 9th house, showing a sweet, artistic, refined nature, ☿, ☉ in 1st ☍ ♄ pointing to the physical limitations, ☿ ruling asc. ☽, ♂, are ☌ the Pleiades, said to produce blindness, ☍ birth asc.

THE NEW RUSSIAN CALENDAR [1]

THIS was introduced under a decree taking effect from January 1, 1930, and is instituted for the whole of the Soviet dominions.

The year consists of seventy-two weeks of five days each, Saturday and Sunday being abolished. There are twelve months, each containing six weeks.

Besides these 360 days there are five feast-days which are:

1. *Lenin's Day*, which falls after January 30th and before February 1st.
2. The two *Days of the Proletariat*, which fall after April 30th.
3. The two *Days of the Revolution*, which fall after October 30th.

In leap years a sixth feast-day (that of *Industry*) is to be inserted at a point not yet determined.

Thus henceforth in Russia:

Monday falls on the	1	6	11	16	21	26	of each	month
Tuesday	,,	,,	2	7	12	17	22	27	,,	,,
Wednesday	,,	,,	3	8	13	18	23	28	,,	,,
Thursday	,,	,,	4	9	14	19	24	29	,,	,,
Friday	,,	,,	5	10	15	20	25	30	,,	,,

Thus we have:

Former Gregorian Calendar		*Soviet Calendar*
January 1	corresponds to	January 1
January 31	,,	Lenin's Day
February 1	,,	February 1
March 1	,,	February 29
April 1	,,	March 30
May 1	,,	April 30
June 1	,,	May 29

[1] This article is based on one that appeared in the German periodical *Zenith*, February 1930, to the editor of which our acknowledgments are due.

July 1	corresponds to	June 29
August 1	,,	July 30
September 1	,,	September 1
October 1	,,	October 1
November 1	,,	Day of the Revolution
December 1	,,	November 30

SPECIAL 1930 COMPETITION

THE terms and nature of this competition were explained in the December 1929 issue. My desire was to elicit and publish some *definite forecast* which, when fulfilled, would be evidence of a striking character of the truth of Astrology.

However, the results were not satisfactory. There were but four entries, and two of these, despite the statement that no person should make more than three forecasts, were more of the nature of essays on the year than prophecies of definite events.

What I wanted was a forecast of some such event as the R 101 disaster or the German mining explosion.

Mrs. Kennison's entry was much more in the spirit of the thing, but her forecast that the Government would be overthrown within the time stated has not been fulfilled, though she mentions correctly the time of the Mosley crisis. Her second prognostication—of the death of an important personage—has not been justified.

The fourth entry I mentioned in the March 1930 issue as being "somewhat alarmist." It emanated from an Indian gentleman using the pseudonym of Kamlian. As it happens it was by far the best, though carried much too far. His letter ran: "Relations between England and Italy will be very tense about the

12th April. War between the two countries seems inevitable. . . ."

Now this forecast was in a measure fulfilled by the strain that arose at that period over the Maltese question, the life of the Governor of that island being attempted. The tension was ostensibly between Britain and the Vatican.

It is a pity that a really fine prophecy was half spoilt by an exaggeration of the seriousness of the matter foreseen.

In the circumstances I propose to forward a cheque for half the prize-money—£2 10s.—to Kamlian; and in the future our competitions will deal chiefly with natal Astrology.

THE EDITOR

CORRESPONDENCE

ACCIDENT OR SUICIDE?

THE EDITOR, *Astrology*.

DEAR SIR,

Following on what you have written about the map of the unfortunate young man who died from a gunshot wound, I would like to offer the following judgment as the solution of the tragedy, beginning by saying that I agree with the remarks already made in the article accompanying his natus in the June Quarterly.

Neptune in the 8th, or death, house of his chart, indicates an involved state of things connected with his death and a good deal of mystery. The opposition of Sun to Neptune at birth indicates that this state of affairs was due to, or concentrated in, *one particular person or set of circumstances.* (Alan Leo gives this rule for Sun opp. Neptune, and in practice I have found it correct.)

We find that the ruler of the 8th house is the Moon, and we find the Moon at birth posited in the 11th house, in Scorpio, whereby I judge that a friend was in some way involved in the question of his death, but that as the friend would not divulge what he knew (Scorpio) the matter would remain a secret (again Scorpio); the Moon being in trine to Neptune in the 8th, I judge the friend did not kill him in the sense of *murder* (and may *not* have killed him, unless accidentally), but at least the friend was in some way involved in the question of the death.

The Moon in the 11th does not always indicate very *great* or *lasting* friendships, so it may only have been what we may term an *acquaintanceship* between them.

The ruler of the sign which completely fills the 11th or friendship house (appearing on both cusps) is Mars. We find Mars in the 12th, the sign of enemies and secret occurrences, and almost in conjunction with the asc., in Sagittarius—and Mars in Sagittarius signifies gunshot wounds.

One eye was shot away, and Mars is within orbs of Antares, the fixed-star group inimical to the eyes, and Mars rules Aries, the sign of the head, hence he was also injured in the head.

But the main point, I think, is that the ruler of the 8th is in the 11th, and the ruler of the 11th in the 12th house, indicating that the matter was in some sense connected with a companion, that it remains a mystery, was probably accidental, and was certainly (on this judgment) *not* suicidal. Jupiter (his ruler), sextile ruler of 8th, also planet *in* 8th, negatives *self-destruction.*

I judge (being a native of Australia myself) that probably he was following behind his friend, who had the gun pointing over his shoulder at the time, and that it accidentally exploded. That the friend, afraid of consequences, laid him down and arranged the gun so as to make it appear it was suicide. This, of course, is hypothetical. The position, as described, in which he was found—with the muzzle of the gun in his right hand, about six inches down, and the left hand lying straight down beside the body, is hardly a feasible position for a man who had just shot himself. It sounds "fishy," like most Neptunian things.

In regard to the pilfering, I should not judge that it had anything to do with his death. As to the possible reason, I would suggest the following. I have in several maps noticed

that Uranus in the 2nd house either caused a person to be dishonest or else made them the victims of the dishonesty of other people. A friend of mine with Uranus in the 2nd house, when her progressed Moon came conjunction to Uranus, was defrauded of twenty pounds, and yet the birth horoscope did not show Uranus afflicted.

Finally, I would like to point out in regard to his death that although Neptune in a watery sign in the 8th strongly suggests drowning as a possible death (also accounting for his fear of water, which was intuitive), nevertheless Uranus in close opposition to Neptune indicates explosions, and Saturn in the 4th house (which represents the end of things for him) was in Aries, the sign governing the head, the ruler of Aries, Mars, which is also ruler of the 11th friendship house, being in the 12th, and indicating, as we said before, gunshot wounds.

OLIVE M. STEVENS.

THE RULE OF HERMES AND MR. BENNET'S ANSWER.

THE EDITOR, *Astrology*.

DEAR MR. CARTER,

If you should think I gave the impression of "insinuating" I must certainly apologise. It is not in my line. I firmly believe in saying straight and right out what I mean. And what I mean is simply this: It is useless to run down rules, principles, theories, etc., if you cannot *prove* better, either by philosophical deduction or by means of practical material. So I only want to *invite* Mr. Bennet to tell us something about his experiences, instead of bluntly pretending that my rendering of the Rule is "wrong." If light appears, surely darkness vanishes. That is all.

As to the meaning of the words "conception" and "generation," I think I am perfectly aware of the difference etymologically, but the Dutch dictionary has nothing to do with it. I quoted from the *English* version of Ptolemy's *Tetrabiblos*, edited by Messrs. Foulsham and Co., 1917, from which I stated that "Ptolemy makes no such difference" (*Astrology*, June 1930, p. 112).

The fact mentioned by Mr. Bennet, that the actual body of the Moon may be above or below the horizon, while its zodiacal

degree is at the same time *below or above* the horizon, has indeed to be considered in practising the Rule of Hermes. I may add, perhaps, that my own experience in several cases where the Moon is very near the horizon zodiacally made me find a lunar epoch lying half a lunar month before or after the normal day of epoch, as given by the Rule of Hermes. It would be interesting to have other people's experiences on this point.

Though Ptolemy is probably correct in the general line of his description of the Rule of Hermes, it may very well be that he omitted details and exceptions or variations. So we need not be surprised when we find some.

Very sincerely yours,
A. E. THIERENS.

THE NEW PLANET

THE EDITOR, *Astrology*.

DEAR MR. CARTER,

May I hope that you will be able to find room in your Correspondence Columns for the following remarks *re* the rulership of Pluto?

Since this planet is trans-Neptunian, all who recognise Neptune for what he is, part ruler of Cancer with the Moon, will see the reasonableness of assigning Pluto to Leo. He would then represent the black inner core of the Sun, Sol, or Phœbus —Apollo the bright and shining envelope—"Phœbus," of course, means "shining."

In mythology Pluto is always represented as wearing a crown, even in the underworld of the Shades, a characteristic that would certainly connect him with the royal sign. The only other "Kings" are Apollo himself and Jupiter; but the latter was represented as such only during the "Ptolemaic" period, when his original sign, Aries, replaced Leo as the first sign of the zodiac.

Since the discovery of this planet we have had the widespread emergence of dictators and autocrats ruling side by side with the kings in many countries; the dictator wielding the reality of power, the monarch presenting the outward show and splendour. Leo, being the fifth sign from Aries,

the activity of this organiser *par excellence* has made itself felt in the creation of the world-wide Boy Scout Movement. The bringing up of coal to the surface of the earth is probably to be attributed to the return of Pluto, as the welling up of oil in such prodigious quantities in recent years may well be assigned to that of Proserpine. I must not trespass too far on your space, but your readers will recognise for themselves the suitability of the application in each case. Also, since the Sun retired from the sole rulership of Leo in order to share the same with Pluto, we have seen the withdrawal of gold from general circulation.

Etymologically, Pluto is connected with Ploutos = Wealth, and this, too, would connect him with the gold sign, Leo.

Thus astronomy, mythology, etymology, and world-events all concur in connecting Pluto with Leo.

Has any other sign equal claims?

I further believe that Pluto, ruling from his own original sign, will prove a benefic, if a stern one.

Yours in Astrology,
J. P. GROSS.

GREEN END,
3, CRAVEN ROAD,
READING.
September 13, 1930.

THE EDITOR, *Astrology*.

DEAR SIR,

I was very interested in your remarks on the physical appearance of the signs, as this has always appeared to me to be a subject inadequately treated in the text-books.

The only book I know which is at all enlightening in this respect is Simmonite's *Arcana of Astrology*, which divides the signs into spaces of 5 degrees, and gives a description of each of these "faces," which is often very apt; I know from my own experience that the different "faces" of a sign are very unlike each other. But however careful and accurate a description may be, it cannot take the place of illustration. For the last six months I have been keeping a loose-leaf photograph album arranged according to Simmonite's scheme, and although

it is still very far from complete it has taught me more than I ever learnt from the text-books about physical appearance.

May I therefore make the suggestion that the Astrological Lodge should start a similar book and encourage its members to do the same with their private collections? The number of celebrities in *N.N.* and *Modern Astrology* whose photographs are easily obtainable should make it very easy to form a nucleus and I should be very pleased to contribute photographs of known ascendants from my own collection for such a book.

Yours very truly,
BEATRICE SAXON SNELL.

SEATTLE,
WASHINGTON, U.S.A.

THE EDITOR, *Astrology*.

DEAR MR. CARTER,

It was a great pleasure to me to know I was successful in winning the competition, and thank you for the cheque which I received from you.

It may interest you to know that I was born in England, near Nottingham, and lived most of my early life in the West Riding of Yorkshire which, judging from the books I have since read, seems a perfect hot-bed of astrologers, and I never knew it till I came to this country, where I first heard of it in 1926, since when I have studied it early and late.

Again thanking you, I remain,
Yours very sincerely,
FLORENCE E. SMITH.

2, HOPE DRIVE,
THE PARK,
NOTTINGHAM.
October 4, 1930.

DEAR MR. CARTER,

I do not know what is your experience with regard to the degrees of the mutable signs, as Gemini 7° to 10°, and the opposition points in Sagittarius, and 6° to 9° of Virgo and Pisces.

In perusing many, many maps, I have come to the conclusion that these degrees are very disturbing, and invariably when

planets are in these degrees by progress, and in bad aspect, they bring a really evil period.

For instance, I have found that quite a number of cancer cases either come to light, or cause death to the person, when Saturn or Venus is in evil aspect by progression from these points, counting 1° or 59′8″ per year for the progress.

Persons, too, who have these points prominent at birth, I have noted, have brought into their lives greatly disturbing influences, and pass through great trials which others having not these degrees prominent miss. It should be interesting to you to remember what took place in your own history when planets passed through these degrees. I have found that every planet brings some ill passing these points, *except Jupiter.*

I may not appear to set this idea as clearly as I could do if I had more time now at my disposal, but I feel sure that with the interest and enthusiasm you display in Astrology you will soon be able to judge whether I have discovered a mare's nest or not.

With kindest regards,
Yours faithfully,
F. CARNEY

THE ACCIDENT COMPETITION AND A NEW MEASURE

MONTEVIDEO,
URUGUAY,
S. AMERICA.
September 28, 1930

THE EDITOR, *Astrology.*

DEAR MR. CARTER,

Regarding the competition: substitute "pleasure-boat" —Venus in Scorpio, 5th house—for "hospital"; Venus in Scorpio, 8th sign, medical profession; and "manœuvre" for "operation"—Saturn afflicting Venus from 11th and therefore indicating a friend in either case—and what I submitted would have been right in every particular. Had the competitors consulted the Solar Return map I feel sure that more would have actually hit the mark.

In the Solar Return we find Neptune in 12th, and on the day

of the event Sun 4° past conjunction, indicating the native having recently entered upon something Neptunian and governed by the 12th house.

In the Radix we have Jupiter in 12th, indicating good fortune in affairs of the 12th, and the solar figure shows Jupiter conj. Moon on place of radical Neptune, while on the eventful day of the former two bodies are in close conj. on place of radical Moon; convincing preserving influences. The idea of a surgical operation was helped along by the close interplay between Jupiter and 6th cusps of radix and transit.

I received from Mr. Gross a new measure: one sign to seven years, starting from ascendant and proceeding via M.C. conversely through the zodiac. Applied to my own horoscope it gives astonishing results, ticking off events of importance with an accuracy as yet not met with.

Applied to No. 1 case in "Symbolic Directions," it arrives at 2° ♈ or one deg. from conj. 9th cusp and square Sun, which exactly squares 3rd and 9th cusps—certainly significant in a case where the native had an arm torn off, cardinal signs involved.

I have not found it answer in cases of death, but as a friend only the other day remarked that he had safely passed what he termed "the dangerous age of 63" I at once associated that number with nine sevens—the 4th cusp!

Ever yours in Astrology,
A. J. LITTLE.

111, ASHKIRK DRIVE,
MOSSPARK,
GLASGOW.
September 5, 1930.

THE EDITOR, *Astrology*.

DEAR MR. CARTER,

The article in the Quarterly[1] by Mr. G. H. Bailey regarding solar-lunar exchanges seems to be correct in saying that the "sex system" of arriving at pre-natal epochs (as advocated by E. H. Bailey) is unsatisfactory. I have tried many epochs by that method with very erratic results. My own daughter's in particular was striking, as the lunar epoch came out to the

[1] Summer and Autumn 1928.

middle of December 1928, and I know for a fact that the mother had her normal period at the beginning of January 1929. By George Bailey's method I got a lunar epoch in the middle of January, which fitted the solar epoch.

I find in several solar-lunar exchanges that the radical ascendant must rise at solar epoch to yield Sun at solar epoch coinciding with Moon at lunar epoch. Is there any book published which takes research on this subject further than *The Solar Epoch* by Sepharial?

Apologising for taking this liberty and hoping you may reply sometime when convenient to you,

Yours sincerely,

ALEXR. MAHOOD.

68, BELMONT STREET,
SOUTHPORT,
October 20, 1930

THE EDITOR, *Astrology*.

DEAR MR. CARTER,

In sending you my subscription for another year of *Astrology* I want to thank you for all the care and work you are putting into it. It is splendid.

Don't you think the public generally are more tolerant of astrological teaching than they used to be and more disposed to listen?

I find this in public speaking. Quite recently, too, I've had medical men in my audience who have been quite sympathetic though searching in their questions.

All good wishes,

H. B. PILKINGTON.

SARANDI 667,
MONTEVIDEO,
URUGUAY.
October 7, 1930.

THE EDITOR, *Astrology*.

DEAR MR. CARTER,

Would the R 101 disaster have been averted by a knowledge of Astrology on the part of the promoters of the flight, or could not our national astrologers have foreseen the

danger and issued a warning which might have prevented it?

On the ability of the latter to have done so depends the probability of the former taking up the study of it.

If we take the Libra Ingress Map and compare it with that for the officially recorded time of the start of the flight—7.27 p.m.—we find sufficient sinister indications to have warned anyone having faith in such things that it was a period to let well alone and attempt nothing spectacular with our national air units.

At the Libra Ingress the Sun enters the air sign of its fall, in a cadent house, the Moon is already there, and those two bodies are all we find in air, and gathering up between them the square and opposition of four major planets. Saturn rules M.C., 10th deg. on cusp, so that in ten days' time Sun will have progressed to square M.C. ingress, and approaching opp. Uranus in Aries, and square of Jupiter and Mars in Cancer. With all this before us, does it not seem criminal to have calmly watched the undertaking without making a protest?

If a map of the actual start be erected it will be found that besides the forementioned aspects the Part of Fortune is in exact square to Sun and on the Ingress M.C., while the Moon is going to the deadly quincunx of the Sun, an aspect completed perhaps half an hour before the destruction of the vessel. Sun again in 6th.

Another point to observe in relation to the weakness of Sun in Libra is the position of the dispositor, Venus in Scorpio, and its fall; surely all these indications ought to be enough for us to see plainly that the present quarter is by no means propitious for national aviation, but above all that the early part of it shows actual danger. It may be interesting to note the passage of the Moon over the places and aspects of the planets in the Ingress for the remainder of the quarter; regular air services would never be curtailed through astrological advice offered, yet no harm would be done by suggesting to any proposing stunt flights to take a little guidance from those who understand something of the perils of which they themselves have no inkling; in short, is it not our duty?

Yours ever faithfully in Astrology,

A. J. LITTLE.

18, ABERDEEN STREET,
CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.

THE EDITOR, *Astrology*.

DEAR SIR,

In last quarter's *Astrology* a correspondent, Mr. Anderson, states that be believes Christchurch to come under either ♍ or ♓. This, to the best of my belief, is *not* correct. New Zealand, "as a dominion," undoubtedly comes under ♑, between the 24th and 27th degrees; of this I am nearly certain. Christchurch responds to all transits of ♂ through ♋; and there is little doubt of its being the ruling sign.

The late Sepharial gave 24° 47′ ♍ as the Geodetic Equivalent M.C. with 15° 43′ ♑ ascending for Wellington. Personally I think ♐ is in evidence in Wellington people. And I hold the same sign rules all that portion of the west coast which suffered so severely during last year's 'quakes. Now I am an old astrologer, 74 years of age, and my sight is not too good, or I would give you a good deal more about New Zealand. I have spoken much on astrological subjects, but have done little outside this island. Wishing your journal all success,

I remain,

Yours truly,

E. L. BLAKE.

REVIEWS

The Wheel of Life, by MAURICE WEMYSS (Volumes I, II, and III, obtainable from L. N. Fowler & Co., 7, Imperial Arcade, Ludgate Circus, London, E.C.4. 5s. each, postage extra).

These three volumes demand a full review, which we are glad to give them, inasmuch as they deal with matters of outstanding importance to astrologers.

The first volume is concerned with Degree Influences as affecting Personal Appearance and Character: the Campanus System of House Division, with Tables for London and New York: Calculation of the Horoscope: the Relation of the Equinoctial Zodiac to the Zodiac of the Constellations: and Some Definitions and Abbreviations.

Volume II deals with Degree Influences as affecting Professions and Occupations, from "Accountants" to "Muslin Manufacturers": and Volume III completes the Professions, from "Naturalists to Zoologists," with a Table of Degree Influences. It also has an appendix of Biblical References to Astrology, and another on "Sign Rulership: the position of the hypothetical planets postulated by the Author."

These books are the outcome of years of very patient and extensive (as well as intensive) research work by Mr. Wemyss and therefore merit every attention, because his findings are based on practical investigation and not theory alone. Much keen research work is now being done by students, and the old proverb is still proving true, that "An ounce of practice is worth a ton of theory!" Actual examination and tabulation of a large number of maps is beginning to explode some assumptions and modify others, and the Science now needs an ever-increasing number of earnest investigators who will undertake research in specialised fields in order to obtain results which will be reliable.

One vast field of research is one into which Mr. Wemyss has made a substantial exploration, viz. the ascertainment of the importance of Degree Influences. Probably no other question holds such promise of interesting and useful results as the study of the meanings of values of individual degrees of the zodiac. When we have obtained these we shall undoubtedly solve (or go a very long way towards solving) the problem of differentiation in human personalities; e.g. most students, seeing Aries rising, would roughly classify the native as an Arian. More discerning students subdivide the Aries influence into decanates, observing that the Leo decan of Aries rising gives a much steadier native than the other two decans. Further subdivision has been attempted into navamsas, dwadashamshas, etc., but the writer is convinced that the real *key* to differentiation of the individual (especially in twin cases) in regard to *birth*-maps lies in the significance of the individual degree, believing, with Maurice Wemyss and other practical investigators, that the individual degree has an importance all its own; that its influence is not confined simply to the degree of one sign, however, but vibrates across the diameter of the map with the same degree of the opposite sign. Maurice Wemyss's first three volumes devote most of their space to this matter

of Degree Influence, giving many hundreds of examples of his findings, and relating them in useful ways.

The second matter of importance which Maurice Wemyss raises is the question of correct House Division, asserting that "practice, which must always be the final court of appeal, shows that influences calculated by the method of Campanus have their corresponding effect in the life of the native." There are so many of us who have difficulty in delineating our maps when reading them according to the House Division of the Tables in Raphael's *Ephemerides* that we owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Wemyss for publishing House Tables according to Campanus, for in many cases the application of the Campanus cusps on the intermediate houses has at once solved long-standing puzzles. The immediate success of applying Campanus cusps to his puzzle-maps has led the writer to compile Tables according to Campanus for many sub-degrees of latitude, including the calculation of half-cusps so that one might know where a house begins and ends, and he hopes the time will soon be here when someone will finance the excellent set of complete Tables which Mr. H. A. Vohman (who writes in support of Campanus in *Modern Astrology*) has all ready for publication. The astrological world badly needs these.[1]

The third important point Maurice Wemyss raises is the postulation of the existence of other planets. In his own words: "Many years ago the writer observed the repeated occurrence of events similar in nature whenever a certain group of degrees in a horoscope were aspected by the progressed Moon. Extended research and comparison of effects in other horoscopes of the same period led irresistibly to the conclusion that a planet occupied one of several possible positions. Similarly, other groups of sensitive points were discovered, the nature of their influences studied, and their change of position from year to year noted. Eventually the writer's theory of sign rulership was promulgated, which postulates a different ruler or rulers for each sign of the zodiac." The positions of the suggested

[1] For those who may not be able to afford the books just yet, but would like to test the value of the Campanus cusps in their own personal maps, Mr. Sim is willing to insert these cusps in such personal maps if a copy is sent to him care of *Astrology*, together with remittance of 1s. as a nominal charge to avoid frivolous work, the remittance to be placed to the benefit of his Public Class.

planets—Jason, Dido, Hercules, and Pluto (distinct from the Lowell Pluto recently discovered)—are given in decades back to 1800, so that experimenters can locate them in horoscopes. Time and experience alone will tell how far Mr. Wemyss is correct in this matter.

We wholeheartedly recommend the three volumes to the astrological fraternity. When a man publishes the results of many years of painstaking investigation, especially at such a nominal price compared with many other astrological publications, he deserves a respectful and attentive hearing. We look forward to further volumes.

Aquarius is a very tastefully produced birthday booklet from a Rainbow Series of the Twelve Signs, published by Howard V. Herndon, of 690, Market Street, San Francisco, at 10 cents per copy, postage extra.

This very helpful little description of *Aquarius* is made even more valuable by containing some pages upon the influences of the transits of the major planets through this particular sign over the next twenty years, so that natives with vital points in the sign Aquarius will have some idea of what transits will affect them for some time to come. There is also a chapter on the Sympathies and Antipathies of the Signs, showing which harmonise best for friendship, marriage, etc. If the rest of the series are as good as this one, and we should presume so, seeing that Mr. Herndon is publishing them, the whole set should form a valuable help to those desirous of becoming well acquainted with the zodiacal signs.

Christian Names and their Values, by MABEL AHMAD. Rider & Co., 34, Paternoster Row, E.C.4. 7s. 6d. net, postage extra.

A book which should interest every believer in the values of numbers, particularly as applied to Christian names, of which a very comprehensive list is given.

ALEXANDER SIM.