

Among the most noted of these were Claudius Ptolemy, who compiled "The Tetrabidus," being four books upon the influence of the stars; Placidus, a Spanish monk, and Lilly, an Englishman of the time of Charles II.

Tiberius, emperor of Rome, practiced astrology, and Hippocrates, the "Father of Medicine," ranked it among the most important branches of knowledge for a physician. During the middle ages astrology was at its height of popularity. Even the great Lord Bacon believed in it firmly.

It was a complete and complicated system, and contained rules which were so abstruse that they required years for their entire mastery. Nor did the adepts always agree in the mysteries of their art, but they were fairly in accord with the cardinal principles.

There are four general departments in astrology—nativities, or the art of foretelling from a study of the map of the heavens at the moment of birth the general character and destiny of the questioner; mundane matters, or foretelling by the map of the heavens at certain stated times the fate of nations and races, such as wars, pestilences, floods and conflagrations; weather prophesying, or predicting from the mutual aspects of the sun, moon and planets what the weather will be at certain times and places. Horary astrology is the art of predicting from a map of the heavens at the time of anxiety or question the result of any business or other matter of interest to the questioner.

It is a fundamental doctrine in astrology that the sun, moon and planets each exercise a distinct, peculiar and immediate influence upon man. This influence culminates at birth and the ruling planet (which is called "the lord of the nativity") at that time exercises such power over the child as to stamp its character upon the entire life.

This astral influence extends not only to the whole life in general, but likewise to all its particulars of feelings, thoughts and actions in minutiae. This astral influence determines man's physical appearance, intellectual peculiarities, moral character, length of years, rank, fortune and friends—in short, determines his life.

To "cast a nativity," it was necessary for the astrologer to know the exact instant of birth. Then he drew a horoscope—that is a map of the heavens at that instant, as accurately as his knowledge of astronomy would permit, and studied the aspects of the planets.

The zodiac is divided into twelve signs of 30 degs. each, and from the conjunction of the planets in these signs and from the various positions of other planets they augured good or ill for the babe.

Much, of course, depends upon the skill of the astrologer, and a great deal upon his knowledge of human nature.

It is safe to say that rich people generally get good aspects. But there are certain rules which all astrologers have always claimed to be infallible.

The moon rules the first four years of life, and during this period all other indications must be interpreted with the fair "goddess of the night" as the dominator of the activities and results.

Her subjects—that is, those born when the moon is in the ascendant—are pale and serene; and, while full in form and gentle in disposition, they are apt to be lazy, or at least rather inefficient. They are frequently noticeable for their large, languid eyes and receding chin.

The moon has much to do with one's natural propensities, and so her position in the zodiac and her aspects with the other powers should be fully and accurately determined and carefully studied.

Good aspect with Saturn promises legacies, gains and honors through the favor of death of old people; bad aspects with Saturn, on the contrary, presage injuries or losses from the same kind of people.

The moon in favorable aspect with Jupiter promises wealth; with Mars, success in all contests, competitions, constructions or manual operations which require courage, skill and responsibility; with Venus, many and devoted friends among the opposite sex; with Mercury, great good fortune through one's own superior mental attainments and talent.

Evil aspect with Mars presages boldness, rashness and discomfit from defeat by stronger opposing forces; and with Mercury, it announces dishonesty and untruthfulness.

Strange to say, the sun, which is the most glorious of all the heavenly bodies, is less noticed in the horoscope than the moon.

The astrologer gives as a reason for this apparent neglect that the sun, although the source of all life and power, dispenses his influence through his lieutenants—the planets.

It is also noticeable that Uranus and Neptune have no places in ancient astrology, and very little in the modern art. The reason is that these two planets were unknown until modern times. It is dreadful to think how much malign influence these two planets may have exerted in past ages and no one a whit wiser.

There are astrologers at the present day, and some of them publish annual almanacs which give predictions a year in advance. These predictions, as a rule, are couched in vague language, such as "January—a great man will die in America," a prediction which could hardly fail to come true. Yet these impostors make a good living out of this delusion, and as they cannot be said to do any special harm they are not interfered with.

But it cannot be too often asserted that there is no truth in the art and never was. The sun and all the planets may be in conjunction and exert no more influence for good or evil over a baby than a passing milk wagon in the street.—*Golden Days*.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—England and Belgium have accepted the invitation of Germany to take part in the labor conference.

CUSTOMS OF THE ESQUIMAUX.

Like the Indians, the Esquimaux often kill the old. Often the old are tired of life and beg to be dispatched. If food is scarce they are turned out to starve, whether they like it or not. The superfluous women are also disposed of in this way. Barbarism shows itself in their treatment of the dead. The body of a favorite wife or child is sometimes protected through the winter and decently buried in the spring, but as a general rule corpses are dragged a short distance from the village and abandoned to the dogs.

The savages have no idea of the marriage relation. Women are treated as chattels. The number of wives a man may have is regulated not by his possessions but by his ability to manage women. One infers from this that polygamy is not carried on to any great extent.—*Great Divide*.

SOMETHING ABOUT INDIAN NAMES

The Indians have a neat way of fixing it. This Rain-in-the-Face, Spotted Tail, Man-Afraid-of-his-Horses, is good enough to palm off on the whites, but each Indian has another name the whites never hear. First he is named after his mother's family. There are only half a dozen each, Snake, Wolf, Turtle, Bear, Eagle, and so on. You remember how, in "The Last of the Mohicans," the young Delaware chief was found to have a tortoise tattooed on his breast, that gave his family. He was a Turtle, just as the bulk of the Scotch are divided into a few clans, the Stewarts, Campbells, Camerons, McGregors and others. To the Indian's family name is attached another. But it would be bad medicine to have it spoken outside the family circle, and give some of his enemies a chance to work spells and hoodoo him. The Spotted Tail business is a nom de chasse, de guerre, or de toot, which gets hitched on in later life.—*Washington Post*.

PHONOGRAPH AND DOG.

Speaking of dogs reminds me of a certain Newfoundland puppy that belongs to a young man who has recently gone to work at the Edison phonograph agency in New York City. He left his pet here in Washington with his family, whom he writes to dutifully every day by a talking machine, as it were—that is to say, he talks off a few flimsy or brotherly remarks, as the case may be, into the trumpet shaped mouthpiece of the phonograph, and then mails the cylinder to his home, where another phonograph is in operation. The cylinder is put into the home machine and the message ground out in the dear boy's own familiar accents. The other day a loud whistle wound up the communication, and the dog, recognizing it as his absent master's own call, though the latter was 200 miles away, jumped for joy and capered about so wildly that the bric-a-brac suffered.—*Providence Journal*.