

## Tell-Tale Hands

BY SHIRLEY DENISON.

**I**n palmistry, whether known under that name, or under the more high sounding one of chiromancy, we have an ingenious system by which it is attempted to tell, not only a person's character, but his future. This may or may not be a true science, but it is at least a study which possesses so much interest as to render it worthy of a few moments' attention.

In considering it, we are doing so in good company, as not only the learned Arabians and Magi of the East, but such intellectual giants as Solomon, Aristotle and Plato are said to have engaged in it.

The leading signs by which character is discerned and the future forecast, are to be found in the shape and length of the fingers, their joints and in the mounts and lines of the palm of the hand. Stars too, and crosses, circles, spots and triangles have a part to play in this drama of description and prophecy, but theirs are minor roles and cannot, within the limit of this article come in for full discussion.

To properly enable one to study a hand, it should be taken when neither hot or cold, and held in a strong light. When the time comes for the lines to be examined, the palm should be slightly contracted. The left hand, as showing the natural bent of the character, is first to be studied, but the conclusions drawn from it must be compared with and corrected by observing the corresponding signs in the right hand, which show the results of training upon the natural disposition.

Taking the fingers first, as the Irishman says, it may be well to begin with the thumb. In our chart, the joint, (or phalange to use a technical term) marked A, governs the will. If broad and long, the will is firm and resolute; if only broad, we have obstinacy; and if short and narrow, a weak will. The joint, marked B, is a guide to the mind. If well developed, we find a logical, practical nature; less development shows a smaller portion of these qualities. It is usual to compare both joints together; if of equal length, neither will nor reason will get the upper hand; and the character is well balanced. If one is longer, the corresponding quality predominates.

Beginning at the tips of the fingers we find at least four varieties, the square end, as at D, on our chart; the spatulate (flat and widening at the end) as at C; the rounded seen at E; and the pointed, as at F.

If square, we generally find a practical, common-sense nature, capable of hard work and resolution. The spatulate end, denotes activity, self reliance and often selfishness. The rounded, shows love of the beautiful, a poetic nature, enthusiasm and thoughtfulness. The tapering, as pointed, indicate dreaminess, ideality and want of will.

Finger nails if short and strong show courage, critical faculty and a love for upholding opinions once formed. If shaped like filberts and polished, they are typical of sensitiveness and refinement, but indicate a lack of resolution.

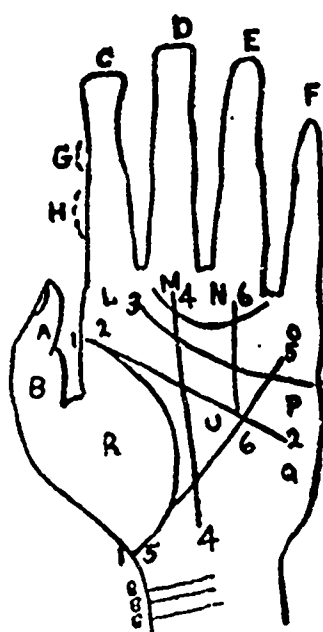
Each finger has its name. The first is Jupiter, its neighbor Saturn, the third Appollo, the forth Mercury. When all are long and well formed, they show a sense of dignity, care for one's appearance and dress, and an aptitude for detail. When shorter, the nature is more active, tactful and livelier, also less reserved. The finger of Jupiter if long, shows pride and a sense of honor. That of Saturn, if spatulate at the end, shows a somewhat morbid and superstitious disposition. If square tipped, this finger will denote prudence and healthy religious temperament.

The third finger, like the beautiful God of the Sun himself is identified with love of beauty, literature and art. If this finger is particularly long and well shaped, it is a sign of a poetic nature. If longer than the first finger and spatulate, it denotes, says the sages, a love of gambling.

The little finger that of Mercury, discloses an aptitude for business and skill in diplomacy: if pointed, intuition and eloquence are present; if squared tipped, ease in expressing oneself, and a fondness for research appear; if short, the quality of unselfishness is present. A knave or rascal is known by various marks of a bad hand appearing in company with a little finger having a spatulate tip.

The knots at the back of the fingers now deserve some attention. Long fingers with knotty joints and square tips show a philosophic mind and a persistent search for truth. In fact prominent knots are a sign of reasoning power and love of science and calculation. Their absence shows a tendency to jump to conclusions; to act on impulse, and to reach decisions by instinct rather than by any deliberate method of deduction.

We must now look at the palms of the hands to consider palmistry proper. If the hand is slightly contracted, there will be seen, in most cases, a lump at the base of each finger. These are the mounts, and they share with the finger to which each belongs, the names of the Divinities already given.



That at L is Jupiter; the next at M is Saturn; N is Appollo, and O is Mercury. The large mount at R is Venus. That at the side of the hand marked P is Mars, and the one below it, at A is the Moon.

The Mount of Venus measures the extent of our affection. If abnormally large, and the thumb shows a weak will, while the Head and Heart lines indicate poor judgment and uncontrolled affections, it may be a very bad sign. If of normal size and

in good hand it shows a loving, kindly nature. Grace and love of pleasure are other signs of a well developed mount of Venus. If the mount is only slightly apparent, a hard, selfish nature is revealed.

The other mounts share the qualities of their corresponding finger. If instead of a mount, the place is flat, there is neutrality, and if a hollow appear, the opposite qualities are seen. Thus Jupiter shows a laudable ambition and sense of honor and dignity; if there is a hollow instead, the result will be idleness, vulgarity and lack of self respect. If on the contrary, it is too large, it denotes the presence of excessive pride. A cross appearing on this mount foretells a happy marriage. A star, the gaining of some great ambition.

Saturn is the mount of fatality. If properly developed it tells of success, forethought and good fortune. This is especially the case when the line of Fate (line No. 4 in chart) runs up to it. When this mount is too large, the mind is sad, and fearful of the future, especially of the future life.

The Mount of Appollo is the Parnassus of the hand. Here dwells beauty, art, literature and poetry. Its absence tells of a lamentably material and colorless existence. It may be too prominent, and then frivolity and ostentation are present.

The Mount of Mercury if well defined, denotes

intelligence and love of science, commercial instinct and tact. Too much of Mercury introduces falsehood and dishonesty. Its absence means a lack of brain power.

The God of War claims the mount marked P, and when his claims are recognized we see an ardent and somewhat fiery nature, courage and resolution. This may develop into tyranny and cruelty if appearing in excess. Its absence shows a want of courage.

Dreamy imaginative people have the Mount of the Moon (at Q) highly developed. It is a good sign, but too much of it leads to melancholia; and, where the line of the head comes down upon it, and a weak will is indicated, madness. People who have no such mount are unromantic, practical and dogmatic.

Of the lines, which are about to be noticed, three will be seen in every hand. They are those of the Life, the Head and the Heart. They may be faint or distinct, broken or well defined, long or short, but in some form they will always appear. It is not so with the other three main lines. Though generally visible, some hands may be wanting in one or all. These latter are the line of the Life or Health, the line of Success or the Sun, and the line of Fate or Saturn.

The line of Life is numbered 1 in our chart, and runs round the Mount of Venus. If long, well marked, even and unbroken, it means a long life and good health. Sometimes it is attended by a second line following it all or part of the way. This increases the chances of long life and happiness. If wide and pale instead of deep and red, it shows an evil disposition or ill health. Should it be broken or intersected by cross lines, especially when the same interruptions are seen in both hands, accident or illnesses are to be feared. The direction of any intersecting lines should be noticed. If they come from the Head line, the illness will spring from the mind; if from the Heart line, heart troubles are the cause.

The line of the Head is numbered 2 on our chart. Beginning (properly speaking) with the line of Life under Jupiter, it soon separates and runs obliquely across the hand to the Mount of the Moon. If long, well defined and unbroken, it shows a continued unclouded intellectual life, sound judgment and memory. A very short line, or one which is pale and wide, are signs of weak intellect. Treachery and deceit are visible where the head line is long, thin and narrow. A fork rising from this line to Mercury foretells commercial success.

The line of the Heart (No. 3) is, at its best, clear, straight and well colored; rising on Jupiter and stretching well across the hand. It then shows a capacity for honest, unselfish, abiding affection. Any breaks that occur, spoil it by telling of inconstancy. A succession of small links like a chain, show many flirtations. A cold temperament is indicated by a pale, wide line; ardent, passionate love in a line of a deep red color. Should this line go around the side of the hand, it betrays jealousy.

The line of Fate or Saturn, to tell of success, should run straight up and down the palm, as is seen in line 4 on chart. If it does this, ending on Mount Saturn, good fortune will attend the owner's efforts. Any breaks however are so many obstacles, and short line means unfulfilled ambitions. Where it is absent, it indicates a dull existence, with no striving or wish for success.

The line of Health should take the direction seen in line 5 on the chart. It then means good health. Biliousness is seen in a winding line, feverishness in a red one. A dull, wide line shows declining health.

The line of the Sun (No. 6) when deep and ending on the Mount of Appollo, denotes success achieved through effort, and ultimate attainment of fame. If rising from the Head line we have creative genius; if from the Heart, power of appreciation, only, of art and beauty.