

The Lines of the Hand.

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IN a former article on the study of the hand I spoke of the indications of character and temperament of the intellectual facilities, the tastes and qualities which we may learn from the shape and length of the fingers and palm; but I have discovered, from many years' study of books on the subject, combined with large and varied experience in examining hands, that we can clearly and accurately trace events which have occurred in the subject's past, if they have made a deep impression on the mind and memory, and also predict the future to a certain extent, but only as it is indicated at the time the hands are examined.

The lines are continually changing. An illness may be averted by care, an accident prevented by caution, a catastrophe warded off by prudence, etc. As I have actually watched at intervals the changes of the lines in my own hands, and in the hands of my friends, I have no hesitation in asserting it to be a positive fact that they *do* alter, form and reform. Of course these changes may have no reference to events, and the accuracy with which any good and genuine palmist can speak of what has occurred in the past

from examining the lines, may be only the oft-repeated result of coincidence, but if so, I must say I have encountered a very large army of coincidences during my experience and search for the truth in Palmistry. Now to return to the lines. I will commence with the Line of Life, which almost invariably starts or rises between the finger and thumb, and in its course surrounds the ball of the thumb or Mount of Venus with more or less clearness and regularity. If well defined, unbroken and nicely-coloured, *i.e.*, neither too red nor too pale, this line betokens long life and a sound constitution, although other signs may counteract these favourable indications. A bar across the line marks an illness, a break signifies a more severe one, especially if showing in both hands, and with the upper end of the line turning in towards the thumb. A life line which breaks off short in

both hands, and does not continue again gives warning of sudden death at the time when it becomes invisible, but, before that time appears, an inner line, or a continuation of the original one, may form. A fork at the end of the Life Line with descending

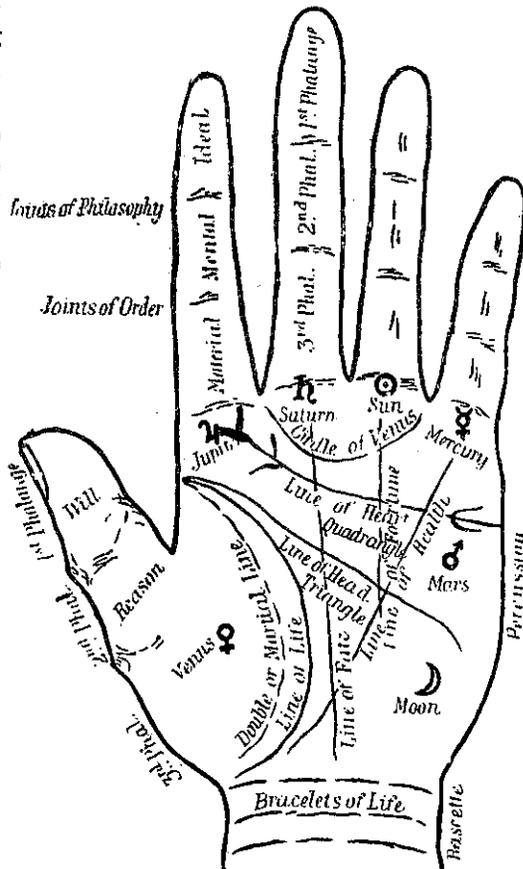


FIGURE I.
General Map of the Hand.