

## Medical Astrology and Health: A Study of the Usefulness of a Non-Positivist Cognitive Paradigm in the Field of Nursing and Medical Assessment

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### Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate and discuss the relationship between medical astrology and health, and the credibility, validity and/or application of genethliacal medical astrology (astrology based on the time of a person's birth and applied to health problems) for nursing and medical assessment. In order to test the relationship between medical astrology and health, 10 subjects' natal horoscopic health profiles and actual medical histories were compared. The data obtained were analyzed by correlating the astrological signifiers located in zodiacal signs of the subjects' natal horoscopes and the medical history of the corresponding anatomical regions. The rate of match/mismatch between sign-regions of the "melothestic man" (a diagram which correlates the zodiac and human anatomy) and medical history was respectively 51.4%/48.6%. This indicates a higher than random but weak correlation between medical astrology and actual medical history. To sum up, the results of this study cannot show clearly whether or not there is a correlation between medical astrology and health. However, even while falling short of infallibility, the results of the correlation between sign-regions of the "melothestic man" (zodiacal factors) and medical history can still give us some valuable insights. The findings of this study suggest that while medical astrology might be useful for guiding nursing and medical assessment, it cannot be considered a sufficient guide by itself.

**Key words:** Medical astrology, Alternative health, Personal characteristics, Hermetic law of correspondence, Melothestic man.

## I. Introduction

### 1. What is nursing?

What is nursing? Is it "science", is it an art, or is it a modern survival of a traditional health profession? In the nursing field, nurses practice both to increase their patients' physical, mental and social functions, and to adjust their daily living, and to mitigate their patients' pain, anxiety, distress and loneliness, and to restore them to maximal self-sufficiency so that they are able to care for themselves, live at home and take part in community affairs, and so on. A standard definition of nursing has yet to be agreed upon. They have been formulated and reformulated since the age of Florence Nightingale, about one hundred years ago. The American

Nurses' Association (ANA) has defined nursing practice as "the diagnosis and treatment of human responses to actual and potential health problems" at the Congress for Nursing Practice in 1973. However, this definition is not universally accepted. Definitions have been developed, analyzed and reworked. What is the relationship between nursing and knowledge? Should nursing restrict itself to obtaining knowledge from only those sources which are approved by positivist science?

The progress of natural science made positivism<sup>1</sup> the dominant cognitive paradigm in the field of nursing and medical assessment, and has bestowed great benefits on human beings in terms of health and welfare. Nursing studies the phenomena of Man and Health. According to

Parse<sup>1)</sup>, there are two major paradigms identified in nursing: the Man-environment totality paradigm and the Man-simultaneity paradigm. Within these two paradigms, there are many nursing theories have been developed to solve the actual and potential health problems of patients, for example Orem's self-care theory, Roy's adaptation model and Roger's science of unitary human beings, among others. Furthermore these are expected to continue to proliferate in the future. They say that nursing practice begins by understanding its subjects, too. These are human beings as complete persons. Therefore nurses need a holistic<sup>2</sup> approach. However, a total nursing theory employing a holistic approach system has not been created yet.

On the other hand lots of paradigms, cognitive orientations, and wisdom-traditions have been lost which may have enduring therapeutic value. One such cognitive system is astrology. Astrology has become a sort of test-case for distinguishing what is recognized as orthodox science and what is not. So it is particularly interesting to investigate astrology to see if it has anything of value to offer nursing or medicine. The scientific evaluation of astrology is a legitimate inquiry, however, few are those who approach astrology as a serious subject, as opposed to its use in fortune-telling and as of now we have not heard of anybody who has attempted to relate astrology to nursing theory or practice. Therefore it is of potential significance and it is important that some people in health related fields study astrology seriously, especially medical astrology. This medical astrology has the possibility of helping to develop a holistic approach in nursing and understanding patients as total human beings as well as diagnosing problems, actual or potential.

## 2. What is Astrology?

It is said that astrology started in Mesopotamia 5000 years ago, however, its origins are obscure. Astrology is translated as "sensei-jyutu" in

Japanese. However, the practice usually referred to by the Japanese word is not a true astrology. Astrology is not the same as astronomy. Astronomy is a science which studies the cosmos and planets physically. On the other hand astrology studies the minds and spirits of the cosmos. Astrology originated as a cosmology and continues to develop as a wisdom-tradition. So astrology is a wisdom-tradition and not a form of fortune-telling. Astrology applied the Greeks' advanced understanding of astronomy and mathematics to the descriptions handed down from the astrologers/astronomers (there was no distinction in those days) of ancient Egypt and Babylonia (Lupton<sup>2)</sup>, p.1). On the other hand astrology has a certain intuitive appeal as a correlate of biorhythms.

With regard to the specifics of the planetary energies and their influences on human beings. For example, a woman's menstrual period is influenced by Moon's revolution cycle, and the night of full Moon has more crimes of violence than any other day (Oken<sup>3)</sup>, p.260). Interestingly, one of these universally accepted phenomena, the correlation between ocean tides and the Lunar cycle, was once doubted by scientists. These facts are manifested in observationally. Therefore it can be said that at least some planetary energies are generally recognized as having a great influence on the physiology and psychology of human beings. In short, we can say astrology has the capability to understand an individual's nature and temperament in a most subtle and personal manner.

## 3. What is Medical Astrology?

Medical astrology started in distant antiquity (the age of Hippocrates). The earliest literature of medical astrology in that age has not been preserved. The oldest systematic compendium of astrological wisdom which we have access to is Ptolemy's book *Tetrabiblos*<sup>4)</sup> (Loeb edition 1980). Ptolemy<sup>3</sup> (2nd century A.D.) explains the origins of medical astrology which was started when the

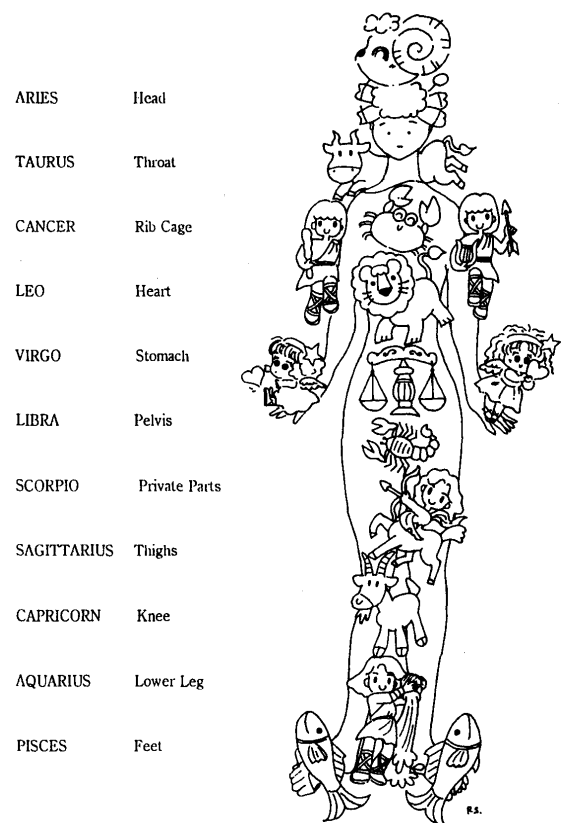
Egyptians applied astrology and astronomical prediction to medicine. Medical astrology was used to take precautionary measures against impending illness and to prescribe what Ptolemy describes as "infallible treatment" for existing disease by means of medicines, through their knowledge of what was properly sympathetic or antipathetic in each case, they proceeded, as far as possible, in those days (pp.31-33).

Medical astrology is based on the following concept. *The human organism is constructed as an exact miniature duplicate of the solar system.* The outer framework of the body corresponds to the signs of the Zodiac (Oken<sup>3</sup>), p.260).<sup>4</sup> These things are treated schematically as the "melothetic man" (Figure 1) in astrology. This technical term "melothetic man" derived from the Ptolemaic astrological system for the zodiacal man, an image of man linked with the twelve zodiacal signs (Gettings<sup>5</sup>), p.311). This means that the first zodiacal sign "Aries" corresponds to the head of the body and the last zodiacal sign "Pisces" rules the feet (Oken<sup>3</sup>), p.261). So from a medical astrological point of view, diseases, like disharmonies in life, are associated with negative planetary influences (Frawley<sup>6</sup>), p.210).

Recently Ridder-Patrick<sup>7</sup>) has written a good general introduction to the application of astrology to medicine. Orthodox medicine treats the average man/woman, based on statistical averages. However, the average man/woman does not exist. On the other hand astrological medicine treats the individual as someone who is a unique case.

Frawley<sup>6</sup>) explained medical astrology in easier terms:

Astrology examines disease, as it considers the entire life of man and all aspects of our being; body, mind, soul, and spirit. There is a special branch of "Medical astrology" dealing specifically with health problems, though not limited to the physical body in its examination or treatment



(drawing inspired by 15th-century original reproduced in Gettings<sup>5</sup>), p.311)

**Figure 1 : Melothetic Man**

(p.210).

Summing up, we can say medical astrology has the capability to interpret the questions and/or the tendency of individual characteristics in relation to health and to diagnose and treat idiopathic diseases.

#### 4. The Purpose of This Study

The purpose of this study was to investigate and discuss the relationship between medical astrology and health, and the credibility, validity and/or application of genethliacal<sup>5</sup> medical astrology for nursing and medical assessment.

## II. Background: Classical Positions within the Scholarly and Scientific Worlds with Regard to the Evaluation of Medical Astrology

What are the standard opinions as to whether medical astrology is useful or not?

### 1. Sympathetic authorities

There were numerous pre-modern authorities supportive of medical astrology such as *Paracelsus*, *Ptolemy* and the like.

Regarding classical spokespersons and evidence for medical astrology, we can consider Paracelsus (1493-1541) who's work has been summarized in *Paracelsus the Physician*<sup>8)</sup> by Jung. Paracelsus was a physician and died about 400 years ago. The following quotation explains Paracelsus' thinking about medical astrology, especially the reason he utilized medical astrology:

Paracelsus ranged against the academic physicians all along the line, and against authorities ... The only exceptions (apart from Hippocrates) were the alchemical authorities ... In general, he attacked neither astrology nor alchemy, nor any of the popular superstitions ... He himself was mainly interested in the cosmic correlations, such as he found in the astrological tradition. His doctrine of the "star in the body" was a favorite idea of his, and it occurs everywhere in his writings. True to the conception of man as a microcosm, he located the "firmament" in man's body and called it the "astrum" or "Sydus" ... The physician had to be not only an alchemist but also an astrologer, for a second source of knowledge was the "firmament" (p.14 and p.16).

Furthermore in Paracelsus' *Labyrinthus Medicorum*<sup>9)</sup> is the following:

... the stars in heaven must be "coupled together", and that the physician must "extract the judgement of the firmament from them". Lacking this art of astrological interpretation, the physician is but a "pseudomedicus". The firmament is not merely the cosmic heaven, but a body which is a part or content of the human

body (p.20).<sup>6</sup>

His opinion is not very clear from a modern point of view. This is stated by Jung<sup>8)</sup>:

Paracelsus was one of the great figures of the Renaissance, and one of the most unfathomable. For us he is still an enigma, four hundred years afterwards (p.30).

However, his opinion is important for us in understanding the medical applications of astrology. And an earlier authority, Ptolemy, had stated the same as Paracelsus. That medical astrology is useful and beneficial, as illustrated by the above quotation in chapter I. In this way advocates of medical astrology have claimed that it is beneficial for human beings.

### 2. Critical authorities

With regard to classical authorities and evidence against medical astrology, these have been synopsised in Pico de la Mirandola's *Disputationes* which has been summarized in "An outline of Pico's *Disputationes*" by Cornelius<sup>9)</sup>. The following quotation explains Pico's thinking about astrology, especially the reason he opposed astrology:

Pico makes clear that he is distinguishing astrology from astronomy. His target is "divinatory" astrology, the making of particular judgements concerning unknown or secret things from the horoscope, as for instance in the practices of natal, horary, and electional astrology. His tone throughout is scathing; when, he asks, have astrologers ever been honoured, or had statues and memorials put up for them? Their writings are so silly that one may wonder whether the astrologers themselves really believe what they say. Pico speculates on why people want to believe in astrology. He suggests that we don't fear things where the cause is obvious, but where

causes cannot be established we seek some answer, and we imagine that fortune and chance occurrence are related to the secret causes of the stars ... The signs of zodiac are obviously established for the convenience of mathematicians [i.e. astrologers], and their supposed qualities are really determined by the images projected on to them by astrologers. There are no animals in the sky; the zodiac figures are the fabulous creations of astrological madness. Pico denounces astrologers for 'profaning the heavens, the portico of God's temple, with a menagerie of inane animals' (p.330 and p.332).

In summary, Cornelius<sup>9)</sup> schematizes Pico's major themes under seven broad headings:

These concern (1) the authority of astrology's tradition, (2) physical basis and primary data, (3) foundation of the symbolism, (4) primary logic of astrology, (5) application of the theory to horoscopes, (6) astrological predictions in practice, and (7) religious and ethical considerations (p.330).

As illustrated in the above quotation, unsympathetic authorities conclude that astrology is absurd and non beneficial for human beings.

### III. The Contemporary Debate on the Validity of Astrology and Medical Astrology

#### 1. Modern Criticism by "Skeptics" (Orthodox Positivists)

An anti-astrological manifesto appearing first in the American journal *The Humanist* states that:

Those who wish to believe in astrology should realize that there is no scientific foundation for its tenets ... Yet acceptance of astrology pervades modern society. We are especially disturbed by the continued uncritical

dissemination of astrological charts, forecasts, and horoscopes by the media and by otherwise reputable newspapers, magazines, and book publishers. This can only contribute to the growth of irrationalism and obscurantism. We believe that the time has come to challenge directly, and forcefully, the pretentious claims of astrological charlatans ... It should be apparent that those individuals who continue to have faith in astrology do so in spite of the fact there is no verified scientific basis for their beliefs, and indeed that there is strong evidence to the contrary (Cornelius<sup>9)</sup>, pp.23-24).

After criticizing *The Humanist*, Cornelius<sup>9)</sup> concludes that the skeptical critique of astrology has two main themes:

First, although it cloaks itself in pseudo-science, astrology has no scientific basis or verification. It is therefore an irrational belief. Second, it is a system of *magic*. It is taken entirely for granted that no further inquiry is needed once this is established – magic is without question false. From these considerations it follows that believers in astrology are ignorant or deluded, and its practitioners are charlatans. The popular promotion of astrology encourages irrationalism and leads people into an unwholesome attitude in which they do not take responsibility for their own actions (pp.24-25).

That is to say, skeptics think astrology is unscientific and unbelievable lore and, imposture.

#### 2. The Revival of Medical Astrology

In recent years, the credibility and validity of medical astrology has been reconsidered. That is to say, a revival of medical astrology has come into existence. Ridder-Patrick<sup>7)</sup>, one of the advocates of astrology, has explained the validity of astrology:

Astrology is one of the most accessible and reliable methods of pinpointing and analyzing those factors which permeate inner and outer circumstances at any given moment, the individual's relationship to them, and the adjustments that need to be made to maintain equilibrium. From the state of inner harmony that comes from co-operating with these forces emanates health (p.2).

Also Frawley<sup>9)</sup> explained the capability of medical astrology:

Medical astrology includes the entire astrology of healing. Astrology is not only helpful for ordinary disease conditions, it also has the means of diagnosis and treatment for diseases which are not curable by usual medical methods. It gives us a better picture and methodology for dealing with disease that come from internal causes (p.210).

Jung, Young and Feyerabend also make an appeal for the credibility and validity of astrology. Jung<sup>10)</sup>, a psychologist, used astrology himself and which indicated the credibility and validity of astrology. Then he also advocates medical astrology in the context of Paracelsus' statement. Furthermore he confirmed the validity of astrology by making a successful astrological experiment by himself.<sup>7</sup>

Young<sup>11)</sup> is physicist. He maintained that astrology fits well with indeterminably principle which has been emphasized by contemporary physics. Modern cosmology is based on relationships rather than mechanical behavior of material things, in this sense it strongly resembles the geometrical patterning of astrology. He explains that quantum physics which seems to violate the assumptions of classical mechanics is recognized as science, so astrology ought to gain similar acceptance.

Feyerabend<sup>12)</sup> is philosopher of science. He appeals the deficiencies of some widespread ideas about the nature of knowledge.

No theory ever agrees with all the facts in its domain, yet it is not always the theory that is to blame. Facts are constituted by older ideologies, and a clash between facts and theories may be proof of progress. It is also a first step in our attempt to find the principles implicit in familiar observational notions... Neither science nor rationality are universal measures of excellence. They are particular traditions, unaware of their historical grounding.

To sum up, the point of this paragraph, (1) the revival of astrology is what prompted the manifesto in *the Humanist*, (2) astrology, including medical astrology is becoming more popular recently, (3) this kind of astrology is much more rigorous than the "fortune-telling" kind imagined by the skeptics.

#### IV. Methodology of This Study

##### 1. Sample

The sample consisted of 5 males and 5 females attending college and assumed to be healthy. Data was collected at the College of Nursing Art & Science, Hyogo. All 10 people agreed to participate in this study. The demographic data for the subjects were as follows. Males' ages varied from 20 to 30 years with a mean of  $24.6 \pm 4.0$  years and females' ages varied from 19 to 31 years with a mean  $25.4 \pm 4.8$  years.

##### 2. Questionnaire

The questionnaire packet used in this study was made by the researcher. It has 12 categories of questions corresponding to potential health problems associated with the anatomical correspondences of the melothesic man. It elucidated the medical history of the subjects systematically. The

contents of the questionnaire can be seen in Figure 2.

~ Please answer the following question ~

Have you had a medical history in

1. Thigh (hip, hip joint, etc.) problems Describe the problem	Yes	No
2. Pelvis (kidney, adrenal gland, waist, etc.) problems Describe the problem	Yes	No
3. Head (brain, eye, ear, etc.) problems Describe the problem	Yes	No
4. Private Parts (urethra, urinary bladder, ovary, uterus, etc.) problems Describe the problem	Yes	No
5. Knee (skin, etc.) problems Describe the problem	Yes	No
6. Rib Cage (breast, esophagus, diaphragm, pancreas, stomach, etc.) problems Describe the problem	Yes	No
7. Arms (pulmonary, bronchus, shoulder, upper rib, finger, etc.) problems Describe the problem	Yes	No
8. Feet (toe, heel, etc.) problems Describe the problem	Yes	No
9. Stomach (duodenum, intestine, appendix, liver, spleen, etc.) problems Describe the problem	Yes	No
10. Heart (aorta, back, etc.) problems Describe the problem	Yes	No
11. Throat (neck, teeth, larynx, tonsil, thyroid, etc.) problems Describe the problem	Yes	No
12. Lower (ankle, leg, etc.) Legs problems Describe the problem	Yes	No

Thank you very much

**Figure 2 : Contents of Questionnaire**

### 3. Procedure

With regard to the college students, the researcher approached them as they arrived in college, described this study and distributed a waiver form in advance, in order to obtain consent. Then the first data was collected from the subjects: birth date, birth time and birth place.

The next step was the erection of the natal (basic)<sup>8</sup> horoscope. First, in order to erect the natal horoscope, the data for consenting subjects from their own exact birth date, hour and location of an individual's birth were mathematically calculated by hand using the Michelsen ephemeris<sup>13</sup>; as a result, literally a map of the heavens showing the exact position of the sun, moon and planets at that time was completed. Subsequently my calculations were checked by computer and

found to be correct. An illustration of a natal horoscope can be seen in Figure 3. Second, a simple count of the number of planets in each element<sup>9</sup> and in each quality<sup>10</sup> in each chart was made. Third, the subjects' sun position (house of sun) and the rulership of sign of zodiac (Table 1): dignity<sup>11</sup>, exaltation<sup>12</sup>, strong<sup>13</sup>, detriment<sup>14</sup> and fall<sup>15</sup>, were found. The last step was to give the medical history questionnaire to the subjects. After that the subjects returned the questionnaire to the researcher.

### 4. Data Analysis

In order to test the relationship between medical astrology and health, the subjects' natal horoscopic health profiles and actual medical histories were compared. The data obtained were analyzed matching the percentage of planetary rulerships in zodiacal signs with the medical history of the corresponding anatomical regions.

## V. Results

The results of this study are as follows and they are schematized in detail in Table 2.

### 1. As to Dignity

There were 5 signs in 4 subjects who had planets in signs in their "dignity" associated with certain anatomical regions where they had no health problems or accidents. The rate of match was 62.5%.

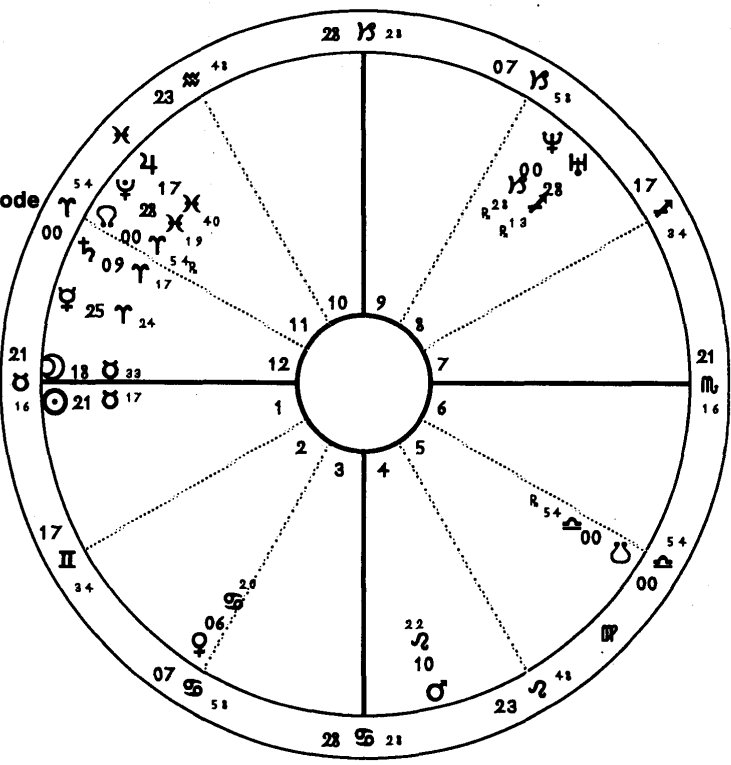
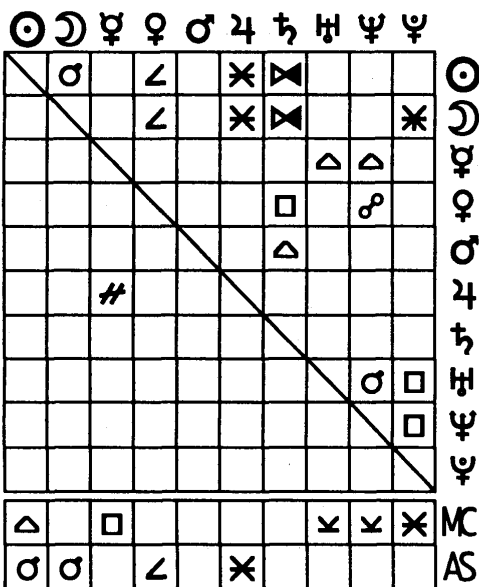
On the other hand there were 3 signs in 3 subjects who had planets favorably situated in certain signs and yet had health problems or accidents in corresponding anatomical regions. For example, tonsillitis, malformation of renal artery, deformation of lumbar. The rate of mismatch was 37.5%.

### 2. As to Exaltation and Strong

There were 5 signs in 3 subjects who had planets situated in signs in their "exaltation" or "strong" had no health problems or accidents situated in the corresponding anatomical regions. The rate of match was 42.9%.

# Florence Nightingale

**Sunrise Chart**  
 May 12 1820 4:47:02 AM ITOT  
 FLORENCE ITALY  
 43N46 11E15  
 May 12 1820 03:58:02 GMT  
 Tropical Placidus True Node



**House Cusps**

10th	28 13 28	1st	21 08 16
11th	23 48	2nd	17 34
12th	00 54	3rd	07 58

**Personal Points**

	R.A.M.C	300 35	
Medium Coeli	28 13 28	Co Ascendant	23 08 41
Ascendant	21 08 16	Polar Ascendant	23 29
Vertex	22 53	Equatorial Ascendant	02 08 48

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Planets by Sign</b> | <b>Planets by House</b> |
| 4 Fire                 | 1 Life                  |
| 3 Earth                | 1 Substance             |
| 0 Air                  | 2 Relationships         |
| 3 Water                | 6 Endings               |
|                        | 2 Angular               |
|                        | 5 Succedent             |
|                        | 3 Cadent                |

	Long	Lat	Decl	R.A.
☉	21 08 17 31	00 N 00	18 N 06	048 51
☾	18 08 33	03 N 47	21 N 00	044 58
♃	25 17 24	03 S 14	06 N 49	024 43
♄	06 20	02 N 59	26 N 18	097 04
♅	10 22	01 N 48	19 N 21	133 19
♆	17 40	01 S 02	05 S 50	349 04
♇	09 17	02 S 12	01 N 39	009 24
♈	28 13 R	00 S 11	23 S 38	268 03
♉	00 13 28 R	01 N 11	22 S 16	270 30
♊	28 19	15 S 53	15 S 12	004 57
♋	01 42	03 N 16	03 N 40	000 15
♌	03 35	13 S 38	06 N 05	122 44
♍	20 44 R	16 N 08	02 S 21	232 31
♎	08 39	09 N 59	27 N 44	134 01
♏	25 08	03 S 43	15 N 27	053 43
♐	<b>True 00 17 54 R Mean 29 27 R</b>			

Figure 3 : Florence Nightingale's Natal Horoscope



**Tabel 1 : Planetary Honors and Dishonors  
(Table of Rueship)**

Planet	Dignity	Detriment	Exaltation	Strong	Fall
Sun	Leo	Aquarius	Aries	Scorpio Sagittarius	Libra
Moon	Cancer	Capricorn	Taurus	Pisces	Scorpio
Mercury	Gemini Virgo	Sagittarius Pisces	Aquarius	Cancer Capricorn	Leo
Venus	Taurus Libra	Scorpio Aries	Pisces	Sagittarius Aquarius	Virgo
Mars	Aries Scorpio	Libra Taurus	Capricorn	Leo	Cancer
Jupiter	Sagittarius Pisces	Gemini Virgo	Cancer	Aries Taurus	Capricorn
Saturn	Capricorn Aquarius	Cancer Leo	Libra	Taurus Gemini	Aries
Uranus	Aquarius	Leo	Scorpio	?	Taurus
Neptune	Pisces	Virgo	Aquarius	Cancer	Leo
Pluto*	Scorpio,	Taurus	?	?	?

(tabel from Candlish<sup>16)</sup>, p.31 and Oken<sup>3)</sup>, p.311)

On the other hand there were 4 signs in 4 subjects who had planets situated in signs in their "exaltation" or "strong" who had experienced health problems or accidents corresponding to certain anatomical regions. For example, weak eyesight, loss of nail, allergy of the eye. The rate of mismatch was 57.1%.

**3. As to Detriment**

There were 4 signs in 4 subjects who had planets detrimented in the signs which corresponded to certain anatomical regions, who had experienced major health problems or accidents in those regions. For example, gastric spasms, tonsillitis, fracture of clavian and arm. Furthermore there were 3 signs in 2 subjects who had planets detrimental to the signs corresponding to anatomical regions, where they had experienced slight health problems or accidents. For example,

**Table 2 : Relationship Between Planetary Rulerships in Zodiacal Signs and Medical History of the Anatomical Regions**

	Strong Match	Mismatch	Moderate Match
1	Sun in Leo <sup>*1</sup> : no anamnesis Mars in Scorpio <sup>*1</sup> : no anamnesis	Venus in Virgo <sup>*5</sup> : no anamnesis	Saturn in Aries <sup>*5</sup> : suture for head injury
2	Saturn in Cancer <sup>**4</sup> : gastric spasms	Jupiter in Aries <sup>**3</sup> : weak eyesight	
3	Mars in Taurus <sup>**4</sup> : tonsillitis	Jupiter in Capricorn <sup>**5</sup> : no anamnesis Saturn in Gemini <sup>**3</sup> : loss of nail	Venus in Aries <sup>**4</sup> : Suture for face injury Mercury in Pisces <sup>**4</sup> : left feet injury
4	Venus in Libra <sup>**4</sup> : no anamnesis	Mars in Libra <sup>**4</sup> : no anamnesis Saturn in Leo <sup>**4</sup> : no anamnesis	
5	Jupiter & Venus in Pisces <sup>*1&amp;*2</sup> : no anamnesis Saturn in Gemini <sup>**3</sup> : no anamnesis	Moon in Capricorn <sup>**4</sup> : no anamnesis	
6		Venus in Taurus <sup>**4</sup> : tonsillitis Jupiter in Gemini <sup>**4</sup> : no anamnesis	
7	Uranus in Scorpio <sup>**2</sup> : no anamnesis	Jupiter in Aries <sup>**3</sup> : injury of head & weak eye sight Saturn in Leo <sup>**4</sup> : no anamnesis	
8	Jupiter in Gemini <sup>**4</sup> : clavian & arms fractures	Sun in Aquarius <sup>**4</sup> : no anamnesis	Mercury in Pisces <sup>**4</sup> : leg joint sprain
9	Mars in Scorpio <sup>**4</sup> : no anamnesis Jupiter in Gemini <sup>**4</sup> : injury of a finger	Venus in Libra <sup>**4</sup> : malformation of renal artery Mercury in Leo <sup>**5</sup> : no anamnesis	
10	Mercury in Cancer <sup>**3</sup> : no anamnesis Moon in Pisces <sup>**3</sup> : no anamnesis	Sun in Leo <sup>**1</sup> : deformation of lumbar Jupiter in Aries <sup>**3</sup> : allergy of eye & weak eyesight Mars in Taurus <sup>**4</sup> : no anamnesis Saturn in Cancer <sup>**4</sup> : no anamnesis	Venus in Virgo <sup>**5</sup> : weak abdomen

\*<sup>1</sup> Dignity, \*\*<sup>2</sup> Exaltation, \*\*<sup>3</sup> Strong, \*\*<sup>4</sup> Detriment, \*<sup>5</sup> Fall

sutures for head injuries and leg joint sprain. The rate of match was 46.7%.

On the other hand there were 8 signs in 6 subjects who had planets detrimented in the signs which corresponded to certain anatomical regions, who had no health problems or accidents in those regions. The rate of mismatch was 53.3%.

#### 4. As to Fall

There was 2 signs in 2 subject who had planets situated in signs in their "fall" who had experienced health problems or accidents corresponding to certain anatomical regions. For example, chronic diarrhea, suture for head injury. The rate of match was 40.0%.

On the other hand there were 3 signs in 3 subjects who had planets situated in signs in their "fall" who had no health problems or accidents situated in the signs which corresponded to those anatomical regions. The rate of mismatch was 60.0%.

## VI. Discussion

The results of this study lend some support to both ways of thinking about the relationship between medical astrology and health. One is that there is a correlation between sign-regions of the "melothestic man" and medical history. The other is that there is no correlation between sign-regions of the "melothestic man" and medical history. That is to say, the results of this study cannot show clearly whether or not there is a correlation between zodiacal factors and health.

Lupton<sup>2)</sup> gives us a clue about how to interpret these results. The reason why some people don't seem to fit the descriptive characteristics of their astrological sign is that astrological interpretation is based on knowing the complete horoscope of an individual which indicates where all the celestial bodies were positioned at the time of birth but it is impossible to know the complete horoscope. This is very important. And another reason may be as follows. The medical history of each subject

can only tell us about the situation up to the present. Thus the subjects may have health problems or accidents in anatomical regions indicated by their natal charts in the future. For those reasons, this study has not demonstrated any clear correlation between sign-regions of the "melothestic man" and medical history.

In addition, we have another issue that has some sort of bearing on the relationship between zodiacal factors and health, namely the adequacy or not of the statistical point of view applied to astrology. According to Jung<sup>10)</sup>:

It is one-sided, inasmuch as it represents only the average aspect of reality and excludes the total picture. The statistical view of the world is a mere abstraction and therefore incomplete and even fallacious (p.463).

The implication is that there is some sort of relationship between zodiacal factors and health which is more important and significant than the absence of a strong correlation. We should remember that this study shows various qualities of the sign-regions of the "melothestic man". This shows that human beings are individual existences. Medical astrology may be more effective in interpreting case histories than in predicting statistical averages.<sup>16</sup> Nursing starts from understanding individual characteristics. Furthermore just to understand the statistically average man/woman is not nursing. Thus medical astrology may be beneficial for nurses. Because nurses must employ a holistic approach.

Pico de la Mirandola makes a scathing criticism of astrology in the above quotation and concludes astrology is absurd. His criticisms seem logical and true. But his criticism lacks an important consideration. It is that astrology is not always prediction or fortune-telling. The purpose of astrology is to understand and/or make familiarity with the personal characteristics or tendencies of the "native"<sup>17</sup>. In other words,

the birth chart is the pattern of the individual throughout their life. To understand a person as a whole, the present needs to be seen in the content of both the past and the future. Therefore to understand one's own characteristics makes people more happy and secure. This point is definitely different from Pico's way of thinking. Because he was thinking of "science" and knowledge as unlocking the door of universal wisdom rather than casuistic interpretation of the problems to specific individuals.

Nursing is also making rapid progress within the limitations of modern scientism the past 40 or 50 years. However the art of nursing cannot be completely explained by modern scientism. Because nursing is an art as well as a science. According to Zbilut<sup>10</sup>:

Nursing can be studied from a phenomenological, deconstructed, postmodern, constructionist, and epistemologic approach.

and therefore the study of nursing is based on such paradigms. However:

Nurses homogenize discourses that are logically incongruent, and behavioral psychology, cognitive psychology, neuropsychology, and biology are combined in jargon that is apparently governed only by pragmatic and semantic rules.

Although this quote from Zbilut occurs in the context of an article where she laments the eclecticism of nursing theory, the list of theories clearly indicates that a paradigm shift is under way. This indicates that nursing is leaning away from modern scientism. That is to say, science is not almighty and change in our way of thinking is necessary. It is possible that astrology is wrong but it is systematic and coherent in terms of its own premises.

The Japan Academy of Nursing Science (JANS)

second international nursing research conference was held in Kobe in 1995. The main theme of this conference was "Nursing: Beyond Art and Science". Medical astrology may become a beneficial method beyond art and science. Human beings are now confronted with the limits of natural science including modern medicine. Yet many health care questions remain to be answered and new difficult questions, such as how to deal with acquired immuno deficiency syndrome (AIDS) are being posed. Therefore a drastic changeover in the way of thinking of medicine and nursing may be necessary.

The results of this study did not prove the diagnostic efficacy of medical astrology. However, one must remember that there are no completely adequate methods for understanding human beings. Continued exploration of the relationship between medical astrology and health is necessary for nurses as long as medical astrology has potentiality as a holistic approach. We should remember what Ptolemy<sup>4)</sup> said, that medical astrology is a useful and beneficial faculty for taking precautionary measures against impending illness while being skeptical about its prescribing "infallible treatment" for existing disease (pp.31-33). Today it is positivism, not astrology, which claims to be infallible. However, not all knowledge is science and no art is infallible. Now or never is time to free ourselves from modern scientism and positivism with our courage.

The progress of nursing art and science contributes to the health science, medical service and social welfare of the world. We must be open to the use of various methods including astrology in order to make progress in nursing art and science, because there is no methodology which we can consider infallible *a priori*.

## VII. Conclusion

The findings of this study suggest that while

medical astrology might be useful for guiding nursing and medical assessment, it cannot be considered a sufficient guide by itself. The weakness of the results may reflect the incompatibility between astrology and the sort of knowledge and scientific assumptions about standardization and universalization of research results. It may be that astrology's strength is in its casuistic application to individuals, in which case we might expect that a statistical treatment of the data would yield far less significant results than would interpretative application to individual case-histories.<sup>18</sup> However, even while falling short of infallibility, the results of the correlation between sign-regions of the "melothestic man" (zodiacal factors) and medical history can still give us some valuable insights.

Future studies designed to objectively evaluate the benefits and usefulness of medical astrology for guiding nursing and medical assessment should include a larger sample size and wider age range. Studies are also needed to investigate not only the physiological points of view but also clinical applications of psychological astrology.<sup>19</sup>

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### Notes

1. "Positivism" is science which considers only observable phenomena to be "real" facts. It eliminates from consideration any ideas which cannot be proved inductively on that basis, thus rejecting metaphysics and theism.
2. "Holistic" means complete looking at a person seeing them as a unified existence including the mental, physical and social functions.
3. He was not an "Ancient Egyptian". His name is Greco-Macedonian, and he was culturally Hellenistic. He is not to be confused with the

ancient Egyptians to whom he refers in the 3rd person as "they".

4. This way of thinking is influenced by the Bible. This means all existence in the nature under operates according to the law of correspondences and is made in the image of God's Universe (Oken<sup>3)</sup>, p.261).
5. "Genethliac" means nativity. (cf. note 17)
6. Paracelsus does not clearly distinguish between astronomy and astrology (Jung<sup>8)</sup>, p.20). But astrology is not the same as astronomy.
7. Jung's experiment discovered a non-random pattern in the horoscopes of married couples. A high percentage of these had sun/moon and other conjunctions traditionally ascribed by astrology as typical of husband/wife pairs.
8. "Natal (basic) horoscope" is the same as the birth chart. It is the most fundamental tool of astrology. It is the pattern of the individual throughout his life and that to understand a person as a whole (Szanto<sup>15)</sup>, p.78). There is no individual whose horoscope is completely the same as someone else's.
9. "Element" is a constituent defining individual characteristics, especially essential character and personality. It has 4 constituents of Fire, Earth, Air and Water.
10. "Quality" is a constituent defining individual characteristics, especially basic attitudes toward life. It has 3 constituents of Cardinal, Fixed and Mutable.
11. Each sign of the zodiac is said to have a certain planet as its 'ruler'. This means two things: (1)the planet is 'dignified' when in that sign; that is, its influence is made stronger and more harmonious and beneficial; (2)the planet, even when in any other sign, 'represents' its own rulership sign, as it were. If a certain sign is on the cusp of the house dealing with possessions and income, and the ruling planet of that sign is in some other

house and some other sign, then the matters denoted by that other house, and the characteristics indicated by that other sign, will affect the finance, just as will the characteristics denoted by the sign on the house of possessions and the influence denoted by the ruling planet of sign (Candlish<sup>16</sup>, p.30). Simply speaking, when a planet is in such a position it is said to be in "dignity" or "honor" (Oken<sup>3</sup>).

12. Each planet also has one sign where it is traditionally 'exalted' - where its good influence is markedly emphasized. (Traditionally, it is exalted in a particular degree of that sign, though the exaltation degrees are now usually ignored.)
13. Each planet apart from, and less important than, the rulership, 'exaltation', 'detriment' and 'fall', there are certain signs that have enough affinity with a particular planet for it to be strengthened when in them (Candlish<sup>16</sup>, p.30).
14. The opposite sign to a planet's rulership is the planet's 'detriment', where it is debilitated - acts undesirably, distortedly, or weakly (Candlish<sup>16</sup>, p.30)
15. The opposite sign of 'exaltation' is its 'fall', where its influence is made weak or injurious (Candlish<sup>16</sup>, p.30).
16. For example in my (Nakata) case, I had planet "Venus" detrimented in the sign "Aries" which corresponded to certain anatomical region "Head", who had experienced suture for head injury. I was surprised that my own melothesic description fit well. This was a case of individual understanding and application rather than a statistical test.
17. "Native" refers to the subject of a natal or birth horoscope.
18. Cornelius represents a radical point of view within the astrological movement which rejects any assimilation of astrology to

scientific norms. He thinks that astrology should be considered an interpretive art, rather than a calculative science.

19. Psychological astrology is at present much more developed and widely accepted than medical astrology for physical ailments. However, it was not yet been applied in the context of nursing.
20. As Pluto was discovered in 1930 and move so slowly in its orbit around the sun, it has yet to pass through all the signs by transit. Its dignity and detriment are agreed upon by almost all astrologers but its exaltation, strong and fall remain matters still open to conjecture. (note from Oken<sup>3</sup>)

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