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Fraud-sense

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Fraud-Sense

WOMEN frequently are credited with having intuition. Many persons are said to be endowed with a sense of direction. Some accountants are thought to have what sometimes is called "fraud-sense."

Science as yet has neither proved nor disproved the existence of intuition in women. Probably the judgment of women, which often through native shrewdness they permit to be taken for intuition, is the result rather of knowledge and experience combined with quick reasoning.

In the same way many persons who receive credit for having a sense of direction have learned to fix the points of the compass, to consider the position of the sun, and to remember certain landmarks which guide them in their travels.

Doubt well may be expressed that there is any such thing as congenital fraud-sense. Probably it is acquired and developed in some individuals more easily than in others. Human nature is such that certain types of persons are trustful, even gullible, while others naturally are suspicious and unconvinced by anything short of absolute proof. For the former there is little hope of success in the investigation of fraud. The latter take to the work quickly and at times produce some uncanny results.

The fraud-sense which such persons have,

probably is not a simple attribute with which they are endowed at birth. Rather, it is an ability which has been developed by a combination of native shrewdness, knowledge, experience, observation of human behavior, and a determination not to be convinced except by sound proof.

If ability to unearth fraud had to be confined to a chosen few, the successful practice of accountancy on a large scale would be somewhat discouraging. Through research and scientific investigation the possibilities of fraud perpetration and concealment and the indications of fraud existence can be determined. The accountant of average intelligence who is willing to study the results and learn to recognize the signs when he sees them, may aspire to success in the field of fraud-detection. If he is quick-witted and astute naturally the task will be easier. If he believes everything everyone tells him, he is doomed to failure and the penalty which inevitably follows.

Fraud-sense is within the grasp of every accountant. It can be developed. It may have to be born of investigativeness and suspicion. But it can be reared successfully by utilizing the results of research, experience and observation, and by insisting on the production of satisfactory evidence to support all representations made.