

In the discussion in recent *Lancets* on right-handedness and left-brainedness already referred to, Sir William R. Gowers states that it is his opinion that "every child seems to be born either handed, one handedness comes with development, partly from inherited, partly from educational influences." In my opinion the educational influence is the important, if not the only influence. Dr. James Shaw, in the same discussion, states that, by way of counteracting the supposed inherent tendency to right-handedness as well as any uncontrollable external influences in that direction, he has in two instances "by putting articles into the left hand, taught children, who previously did not grasp by preference with either hand, to use it more and better than the right." Having given the start to the left hand, he found it difficult to keep the right hand up to the leader."

Dr. L. C. Bruce ("Notes on a case of Dual Brain Action." *Brain*, 1895, page 54) gives a very instructive history of a case of melancholia in which the two sides of the brain acted at different times. For a time the man would be melancholy, could speak and understand English, and would write in the ordinary way with the right hand. Then a change would occur; he would become noisy and excitable, could only understand and speak Welsh, and his writing could only be executed with the left hand, and would be of the mirror type. What better proof could we have that mirror writing is the natural writing of the left side?

In my patient, as left-handed backward writing was to her the natural form of writing, when she was forced to express herself with her right hand she was made to perform what was to her mirror writing. Having learned this, it was as easy for her to learn right-handed mirror writing as it would be for us to learn left-handed ordinary writing. Then she picked up left-handed ordinary writing as we might acquire right-handed mirror writing. Thus she became provided with four methods of chirography, in all of which she is proficient.

CASE IN PRACTICE.

By S. McCALLUM, M.D., THORNBURY, ONT.

A short time ago a boy, aged 12 years, was brought into my office about 6 p.m., who a short time before had swallowed a Canadian fifty-cent piece. He had been running with it in his mouth and it happened to get beyond his control. When he came in his mouth was partly opened, the saliva flowing out freely, and his speech much impaired. He could not