

developed, (and with this symmetry of body goes symmetry of brain and mind). One cheek is more prominent than the other, one eye-brow has a slightly increased slant, the nose is not exactly straight, one ear or eye is higher, one foot or one hand bigger than the other, one shoulder is higher than its mate, etc., etc.: and if such deformities are undesirable surely also is persistent right or left-handedness, which involves with it a one-sided brain development, with possible parallel consequences to the mind itself.

So much for some of the mental considerations in favor of ambi-dexterity: next, as to the physical ones:—

(A) One strong reason has already unavoidably appeared in the above: an organ grows with use and shrinks with disuse: if the use of one hand be cultivated at the expense of the other the result, besides lack of facility and strength in the feebler member, is lack of harmonious bodily development.

(B) The less used member is in all probability more liable to disease; and here again the fact that an enfeebled or impaired member of one side of the body means more or less debility or lack of development in certain localities of the brain is to be carefully noted. Paralysis almost invariably attacks the weaker side of the brain, and through it the body.

(C) The laborer who favors one hand sacrifices a great deal of his efficiency—it might not be extravagant to say nearly fifty per cent. of it. The instances in proof of this are legion in number. The idle whittler with a pocket knife is more efficient if two-handed. The woodman, whose higher hand on the axe needs more muscle pressure to deliver his blows, could rest himself, (not to mention the added advantage of being able to make an even "cut" in his tree), if ambidextrous, by a change of hands, without cessation of labor. Similarly is it with the shovel, the hoe, the saw, the gimlet, or the rake. The same is true with regard to the spade if there be preference for neither foot in pushing. A carpenter cannot plane an ordinary board without having to change the ends of it through having to humor the grain of the wood. How much handier for him to be able to change sides in pushing his plane instead of having to reverse the