

we are here concerned. The current connotations attached to them are cited from Murray's Oxford English Dictionary, for this is by far the most complete work of the kind extant, and the New Century and other dictionaries contain no material that is not given there.

A. *Right-sidedness*.—If any adjective other than the simple English one of right-sided be required to denote this attribute, it should be the word "dexter." This adjective has been used in five different connotations, but all except that of right-sided are obsolete. Two other adjectives, "dextral" and "dexterous," are sometimes also used for this purpose, but this use of them seems objectionable, because not only is it superfluous but it tends to lead to confusion with other connotations of the same terms.

B. *The Special Capacity Characteristic of the Normal Right Hand*.—So far as I know there is no expression in use for the designation of this important and peculiar capacity. I would suggest that the term "dextrality" be used for this purpose,\* for it is a rare word and is usually employed as an unnecessary synonym for the simple English expression right-handedness. "Dextral" would then signify precisely "pertaining to the excess of aptitude which one of the two hands, usually the right, normally acquires." The group of functions in respect to which this excess of aptitude is acquired may thus be called dextral functions. At present the adjective "dextral" is rarely used, and only to indicate "on the right side," a use which, as mentioned above, is entirely superfluous.† "Dextrally," which now means "to the right" would then signify "in a manner characteristic of the normal right hand."

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\*This definition of "dextrality" nearly resembles that given by Professor Baldwin in his *Mental Development in the Child and the Race*, 3rd ed., 1906, p. 56, where he suggests that the term be used to denote "the general fact of uneven-handedness."

†This older usage has been recently urged by Gould (*Right-handedness and Left-handedness*, 1908, p. 206). He would speak of the dextral and sinistral hands as synonyms for the right and left hands, but does not mention any advantage to be gained thereby.