

line as would fully account for the conflicting results referred to. On the assumption that right and lefthandedness are traceable to the relative development of the two hemispheres of the brain, the results very well accord with actual manifestations. There is a noticeable excess in the examples of greater weight of the left than of the right hemisphere; but apparently a still larger number of cases are to be found where it is difficult to determine any noticeable bias either way. But other observers have assigned much more comprehensive functions, and a nearly independent action, to the two hemispheres of the brain.

Dr. Brown-Sequard, who strongly favours the idea of the superiority alike in size and weight of the left over the right hemisphere, reverts to an argument derived from lefthandedness when discussing his theory that the two hemispheres practically constitute two distinct brains, each sufficient in itself for the full performance of nearly all mental operations, though each also has its own special functions, among which is the control over the movements and the organs of opposite sides of the body. "Every organ," he says, "which is put in use for a certain function gets developed, and more apt or ready to perform that function. Indeed, the brain shows this in point of mere size; for the left side of the brain, which is used most, is larger than the right side. The left side of the brain also receives a great deal more blood than the right side, because its action preponderates; and every organ that acts much receives more blood." He accordingly affirms that the growth of the brain up to forty years of age, if not indeed to a considerably later period of life, is sufficiently marked to require the continued enlargement of the hat. Speaking of himself, as having then passed his fifty-sixth year, he says:—"There is no period of six months that has passed that I have not found my hat, if neglected and put aside, has become too small. The head growing is very strong proof that the brain grows also." The opinions advocated by the leading anatomists of Europe in the earlier years of the present century, differed widely from this. It was indeed maintained by Scemmering, the Wenzels, and Tiedemann, that the brain attained its greatest development not later than at seven or eight years of age. But, without going so far as Dr. Brown-Sequard is prepared to do, the old idea as to the complete development of the brain in youth is now abandoned, and the latest observers have produced evidence in proof of the brain increasing in weight,