

a large hole appeared in the side. It appears to have been held in the right hand while in use. This specimen is fully $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. It was obtained near Brantford, in Brant county. In figure *b* we have a left valve of the same species, found on a village site in Eldon township, Victoria county. It was employed in the same way, a large part of the surface of the shell having been brought into play, and it shows evidence of being used with the left hand. The posterior portion is cut away; but this may also be the result of long service as a scraper.

Besides these, the Museum collection includes specimens of *U. ventricosus*, *U. complanatus*, *U. gibbosus*, *U. plicatus* and *U. ligamentinus*, all of which were similarly employed. Some of them offer evidence of left-handedness. There are eleven left valves of which only five were used with the right hand; and thirteen right valves, six of them being used with the left hand; two could have been held in either hand, and the remaining five were most conveniently held with the right. It is among the scrapers, however, that we find the most evidence of right-handedness.

Figures *c*, *d* and *e*, plate VII., represent shells probably used as scrapers in smoothing and otherwise shaping the interior and exterior portions of clay pots. The sharp points may have been serviceable in forming the sharp angles of the overhanging rims. These sharpened portions are always on the posterior ends of the shell, and were not made so designedly, but are the result of continual use—the gritty nature of the tempering material, commonly used in pottery, accounting for the wearing away of the shell. There are also some that are not pointed; the posterior and anterior ends and lower edges having been brought into play; these portions being rounded and worn from long use. A fragment (apparently of *U. luteolus* or *Margaritana costata*), in the writer's collection, is worn down almost to the pallial impression. Pieces of *M. rugosa* were found in Whitchurch township, York county, which may have been used as scraping tools.

Many of these specimens show that their users were right-handed. In figure *c*, plate VII., we have one which was held in the left hand. It is a right valve of *U. rectus*, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and comes from Fairchild's creek, near Brantford. Figure *d* represents a smaller one of the same species, but this is a left valve, used with the right hand. A right valve of *U. ligamentinus* is shown in figure *e*. It is not so sharply pointed as are some others made of this species; in fact, only the lower edge was utilized, and it was held in the left hand. This specimen was found near Clearville, in Ortord township, Kent County. Including these, there are in the collection eight right valves used with the left, and thirteen left valves used with the right hand. There is only one left valve intended for use with the left hand, and this is a fragment of *U. gibbosus*, in the writer's collection. Two other shells, a right and left valve, could have been held in either hand. The fact that when a left valve was utilized it was held in the right hand, and *vice versa*, might be taken as an indication of ambidexterity on the part of the users.

The utilization of finely pulverized shell as a tempering material for pottery must also be mentioned here. Dumont in his *Historical Memoirs of Louisiana*, says "that, having amassed the proper kind of clay and carefully cleaned it, the Indian women (of Louisiana) take shells, which they pound and reduce to a fine powder; they mix this powder with the clay, and, having poured some water on the mass, they knead it with their hands and feet, and make it into a paste."¹

¹ Dumont's *Memoirs* (1753) Vol. II., p. 271; *apud* Thurston.