

hand arising from their special organic aptitude, while their right hand, being constantly enforced by education and the usages of the majority, receives a training which the left hand does not, in those cases of true right-handedness. There are, no doubt, plenty of children who, having but little bias towards either hand, become right-handed. When we consider that the whole tendency of education and custom is to develop the right hand at the expense of the left, and that any voluntary use of the left hand is restrained as being awkward and unconventional, those who have a bias towards the right hand become exceedingly dexterous with it, while, from the lack of *enforced training*, the left is about helpless in independent action. Conversing with a gentleman of considerable culture a few days ago, he said his left hand was merely a supplement to the right, and that in handling anything with it, he was in constant dread of its falling from his hand, or of his hand moving in a direction contrary to his will. This is simply a case of a very decided bias towards the right hand, and a persistent neglect to develop and train the left. But for the naturally left-handed, how different. So soon as the child is old enough to be affected by constructive appliances, then the training of the right hand commences—in the fastening of the clothes, in holding the knife and fork, and when the fork or spoon are used alone, transferring these to the right hand. All mechanical tools, domestic appliances and agricultural implements are constructed for the use of the right hand. This gives a certain training to the right hand, thus accounting for the fact that the truly left-handed are most frequently ambidextrous, yet ever retaining a preferential use of the left hand. This is true in my own case, being thoroughly ambidextrous so far as manipulative skill is concerned, only retaining a preferential use for my left hand where greater force or more extended movement is required. When once a right-handed person loses the use of his right hand by accident, it is only a matter of time, if endowed with any reasonable amount of muscular sensibility, until he becomes very dexterous with his left hand. This is apparent to any observer. These are facts, and from them we learn that *dexterity with the weaker hand* is only a matter of persistent training. It is a matter of regret that both hands are not persistently trained during childhood. How many dentists of to-day would be led at times to congratulate themselves if, in