Curious News of the Hands.

In Primitive Times Both Were Used-Location of Buttons on Men's and Women's Clothes-Our Bodies One-Sided.

Philadelphia Press:-

sessed "young gentleman, I received from him the left hand for salutation, and his revered parent instantly remarked: "That is the wrong hand." Before I had well gotton out of my mind the thoughts worked leftward, it would obliterate stirred up by this expression, I saw a carpenter driving nails with his left hand in the most easy-going fashion. There are left-handed players in the baseball field, in the cricket field and right came also reading in the same the tennes court, and it is curious to direction, and one result of this is very curious. We have become so accusnote the changes made in the disposi- curious. Sition of the "field" in the first two cases, and the evident discomfort of the other players in the third case. We a room and then open them. You will may often see left-handed gunners in find, unless you make a positive effort, instinctively draw back when one appears on the line, as if they were afraid that the weapon held in the left hand might shoot round the corner.

These things, and many others of like kind, are considered abnormalities, for men and women are supposed to be normally right-handed and not left-handed. There are, however, some marked inconsistencies, as for instance that we must hold our knife in the right hand and not eat with it, but with the fork held in our left; while a spoon must be held in the right hand, and the soup conveyed to the mouth by that, for every eye at the table would be turned on a person who ventured to use the spoon in the left hand. It is evident that there must be sev-

eral points of interest in these differences, which it may be worth while to enumerate although it may be far beyond the reach of ordinary reasoning to discover why the rule of knife, fork and spoon has become an imperative one in "polite" society. The curfous in such matters will find much that is amusing, as well as instructive, in Mr. Grant Allen's essay on the sub-

WHAT LANGUAGE SHOWS. The fact that some persons are lefthanded may start the question whether the human animal was always right-handed, for abnormally often indicates a "trying back" to an ancestral condition. Now, when we look at our language, and that in the case of man is a fair test, we find how strongly the comparative force exhibited by each of the hands has left its mark on our common expressions. The right as the "ruling" hand, the left is the "worthless," or the "weaker," hand, if we regard the derivative meanings of the names. In words imported from the Latin a certain ability is called "dexterity," or right-handedness, while that which has an evil or unsuccessful influence becomes "sinister," or left-handed. In like manner, if we look at words from a French source, we find that a clever person is "adroit," because he has right-handed qualities, but a clumsy person is "gauche," because his work is left-handed.

It is evident, that when our race became so far advanced as to frame words for ideas and things, the rule was that the members of it were righthanded. And if we examine other languages, we find proofs that such a rule existed among the people using them. There is, however, good reason for thinking that man originally could use either hand equally well. "This seems a hazardous statement to make about a remote ancestor, in the age before the great glacial epoch had furrowed the mountains of northern Europe; but, nevertheless, it is strictly true and strictly demonstrable. Just try, as you read, to draw with the forefinger and thumb of the right hand an imaginary human profile on the page on which these words are printed. Do you observe that (unless you are an artist, and therefore sophisticated), you naturally and instinctively draw it with the face turned toward your left shoulder? Try now to draw it with the profile to the right, and you will find it requires a far greater effort of the thumb and forefinger.

"The hand moves of its own accord from without inwards, not from within outwards. Then, again, draw with your left thumb and forefinger another imaginary profile, and you will find, for the same reason, that the face in this case looks rightward. Existing savages, and our own young children, whenever they draw a figure in profile, be it man or beast, with their right hand, draw it almost always with the face or head turned to the left, in accordance with this natural instinct. Their doing so is a test of their perfect righthandedness.

AMONG PRIMITIVE PEOPLE. "But primitive man, or at any rate the most primitive men we know personally, the carvers of the figures from the French bone caves, drew men and beasts on bone or mammoth tusk, turned either way indiscriminately. The inference is obvious. They must have been ambidextrous. Only ambidextrous people draw so at the present day; and, indeed, to scrape a figure otherwise with a sharp flint on a piece of bone or tooth or mammoth tusk, would, even for a practiced hand, be comparatively difficult." (Allen.) In connection with this passage it is interesting to examine the reports of the bureau of ethnology, where it will be seen that, although the majority of profiles executed by the North American Indians follow the rule, many faces also turn to the right; and it is found that left-handedness, or rather ambidexterity, is very common among these

But, doubtless, the reader will notice that in writing his hand moves from eft to right, and not from right to left. Here is an apparent violation of the principle laid down in the quotation given from Mr. Grant Allen. It is, owever, more apparent than real, you study Egyptian hieroglyphics you will find that profiles invariably look to the left. Hebrew, Arabic, Hinduan and other ancient languages read from right to left. In these, as in some nodern tongues, we have to begin the book at what is to us the wrong end. The reason of this is that the early

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HE other day, on offering to | languages were inscribed, not writshake hands of a self-pos-formed the page. The right hand could therefore carve or impress the symbol in the natural way and pass on. With the introduction of wax tablets of papyrus, and, in later times, of parchment and paper, a difficulty a rose; for if the hand began at the right and its own work.

Hence, the habit of writing from left to right, so that not only may the writing be clean, but also that it may be visible. With writing from left to tomed to move the eyes from left to right that we instinctively look at things that way. Close your eyes in the sporting clubs, but the bystanders that your eyes take in the objects on the left hand first and then move to the right. This is the way in which we view a landscape or a picture. The painter follows the habit of the writer, and works from left to right to avoid "smudging" his work, and it has been remarked that when several compositions enter into one picture, as in some of the ancient altar pieces, the chronological order runs from the upper lefthad corner to the lower right-hand one. IN BUTTONING.

The results of the prevalent righthandedness of man are shown in many curious ways. If we look at dress, we find that a man's buttonholes are on the left, while the buttons are on the right. "A man, in buttoning, grasps the button in his right hand, pushes it through with his right thumb, and pulls all straight with his right forefinger. Reverse the sides, and both hands at once seem equally helpless. Not very long ago the buttonholes and buttons of women's dress were on opposite sides to those of men. It may be so to a large extent even now, but I am told on very good authority that line superiority is doomed, and the future man will have but little difficulty in donning the coat of the new woman. As man generally carries his loose cash in his right-hand pocket, in order that he may reach it with ease. Hise pocket handkerchief is placed in the right pocket of his "sack" coat, if low down; in the left breast pocket, if higher up, for a similar reason. His railway ticket and nickels for car fare occupy a middle position on the righthand side, in order that they may be "handy." A soldier wears his sword on the left for convenience; the driver holds the reins in his left hand, while the right carries the whip as his weapon of offense.

The right hand is the seat of honor at banquets and ceremonies, and the phrase has come into use for the post of dignity in matters both sacred and secular. We hold out the right hand of fellowship, not so much, perhaps, from any sense of its superiority as because, in days gone by, it was found that if it was extended in greeting it could not be used to grasp the sword and thus give an unforeseen blow. In the way of tools, screws are made

to be turned by the right hand, and that useful article at picnics-a corkscrew-is fitted for dextral and not sinistral use. Clocks and watches run round from left to right, as the sun appears to do; although the earth, whose time they are keeping, is so perverse as to move from right to left. In walking down the street we keep to the right hand, and that is the rule of the road in driving, as well as the way in which trains move along the

OUR BODIES ONE-SIDED. When we come to augury, matters become mixed up. The Romans held toward the suppliant; but if Jove turnning hurled by his right hand would move from right to left.

ter all, a very important item in a man. | Pink Pills will not promptly cure, and generation of the imitative genus fol- Pink Pills make rich, red blood, and lowed not its own bent, but the prac- cure when other medicines fail. tice of its predecessors, right-handedness became the mark of the individuals, and although there might be less necessity for striking blows with each generation, the right hand did not forget its cunning." Civilization has adopted the principle as a law of polite society, and, therefore, to be right-handed is right, to be left-handed is wrong. I must cut my food, write my letters, greet my friends, and do a thousand other things with my right hand. In the main, I must tell the truth, for that is right, but, according to a certain phrase of the code, I may

tell an untruth, if I qualify it by the phrase "over the left." RHEUMATIC PAINS BANISHED LIKE MAGIC.

A Dozen Boxes of Pills Failed to Help a Well-Known Citizen of Arnprior-Where a Few Doses of South American Rheu-

matic Cure Brought Relief. The almost instantaneous relief that comes from the use of South American Rheumatic Cure finds an apt illustration in the case of Mr. Theophite Gadbois, who had suffered intensely from rheumatism. Employing his own language: "I had taken several kinds of medicine, but found no benefit from them. I took a dozen boxes of a pill advertised to cure rheumatism, but got no help. Before I had taken half a of South American Rheumatic Cure I found very great benefit, and a little further perseverance banished altogether this terribly painful trouble."

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Try Trafford's for baby carriages, -nothing better in London; also fine furniture in great variety. See our whist tables, Grand Rapid designs, for \$2 50. 95 and 97 King. | Minard's Liniment Cures Garges in Cows

Biggest Plow on Earth.

J. Thompson is a ranch foreman of California. He is the man who designed and had manufactured a plow which it took 50 horses or 75 oxen to draw, and four men at the handles to guide along a furrow. This agricultural monster is the largest plow in the world, and is at present on one of the ranches of the Kern County Land Company, near Bakersfield. At the time that the possibility of this affair dawned upon Mr. Thompson he was weary of cultivating with a two-horse plow the 3,000-acre wheat field of which he had charge.

The top of the plow was five feet above the ground; the beam was a foot thick, the handles ten feet long, and the whole thing was mounted on two eight-foot wheels to faciliate turning it at the end of the furrows. driver's seat was on the axle of these wheels.

At the first trial, ten horses were hitched to the concern, but as soon as the share caught the earth, they were unable to move it. More horses were brought and still more, until there were 50 in all.

Even then it moved very slowly. However, horses were cheap, and their feed cost absolutely nothing, and after the secret of managing it had been mastered, it effected a little saving.

LA GRIPPE'S VICTIMS.

A Scourge More to Be Dreaded Than Pestilence.

The Story of a Nova Scotian Lady Who Almost Lost Her Life Through the Ravages of This Trouble-Unable to Feed Herself and Had to Be Carried to and

From the Acadian, Wolfville, N. S. In the spring of 1894 the many friends of Mrs. Mary Freeman, in Wolfville, N. S., very gladly welcomed her return home after a long absence from her native town, but it was with the deepest grief that they beheld in her the prey of a disease of almost incredible severity. It appeared to all that the brightest future in store for her was but a few months of suffering existence. Not long after her return, however, the people of Wolfville were surprised to hear that after using a few with the introduction of tailor-made dresses the old rule is going out of vogue. If so, this last badge of mascular become almost completely well.

Anxious to hear the truth of this sur-Anxious to hear the truth of this surprising report, our reporter waited on Mrs. Freeman at the earliest opportunity. From her he received a full account of her painful illness and remarkable discovery. In January of 1889, Mrs. Freeman, who was then living in Foxbury, Mass., was severely attacked by la grippe. She had partly recovered when a relapse followed, and while recovering from its effects, she was seized by acute rheumatism and neuralgia. The combined sickness resulted in completely breaking down her constitution. Upon recovering from neuralgia, she one day noticed a little pimple on her left ankle, which became exceedingly painful. It grew rapidly, soon becoming as large as a gold dollar, and breaking into a running sore Others immediately followed, and soon the whole body was covered, the limbs becoming terribly swollen. The most eminent physicians of Boston were appealed to, but beyond informing her that the ailment was due to a completely run-down system, they rendered her no assistance. In the spring of 1894, she came to Nova Scotia. that a change of climate would effect a cure, but to no purpose. Bone ulcers, greatly exceeding in painfulness the sores which first appeared, manifested themselves. She soon lost the use of her limbs, became unable to feed herself, and was compelled to be carried weak, and she was thus denied the enjoyment of reading. After many remedies had been tried and proved useless, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills were finally appealed to. Scarcely six boxes had been consumed when the ulcers showed symptoms of healing, the appetite grew better and her general health greatly improved. Since that time her become mixed up. The Romans held condition has steadily improved, and that a lightning flash from left to right her health is now far better than it was propitious, while one from right to was previous to her serious illness. Save left was unfavorable. It may have been a slight stiffness of the limbs, she because, as the lightning was suppos- shows no sign of the terrible scourge ed to be hurled by Jove, from left to she has passed through. Mrs. Freeman right would be the way in which it is not unmindful of the great obligawould be seen if the deity had his face tion she is under to this remarkable medicine, and she is anxious that the ed his gack on the watchers, the light- wonderful cure which it has effected

should be generally known. The experience of years has proved But why is there this difference in our hands at all? The truth is, our to a vitiated condition of the blood bodies are one-sided. The heart is, af- or shattered nerves that Dr. Williams' An injury to it is fatal. Hence, even those who are suffering from such savage man found out that he had to troubles would avoid much misery and defend it, and devised the plan of cov- save money by promptly resorting to ering the region of his body where it this treatment. Get the genuine Pink is located with a shield. Blows, there- Pills every time, and do not be perfore, were struck with the right arm, suaded to take an imitation or some and soon right showed might. With other remedy from a dealer, who, for frequent use in this way followed ap- the sake of extra profit to himself, may tability in other ways; and as each say is "just as good." Dr. Williams'

SERIOUS OFFENSES.

"Only one thing makes a woman madder than to have her husband stay downtown to lunch when he has said that he was coming home."

"And what is that?"
"It is to have him come home to lunch when he had said he was going to stay downtown."

The sooner you begin to fight the fire, the more easily it may be extinguished. The sooner you begin taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla for your blood disease, the easier will be the cure. In both cases, delay is dangerous, if not fatal. Be sure you get Ayer's and no other.

The board of visitors at the University of Wisconsin has just investigated a charge that President Charles K. Adams is "a born and bred aristocrat." and has decided that the charge is unfounded, on the ground that the president was born on a farm, and worked his way through school and college.

How to Cure Skin Diseases. Simply apply "Swayne's Ointment." No internal medicine required. Cures tetter, eczema, itch, all eruptions on the face, hands, nose, etc., leaving the skin clear, white and healthy. Its great healing and curative powers are possessed by no other remedy. Ask your druggist for "Swayne's Ointment." Lyman, Sons & Co., Montreal, wholesale agents.

Seek not proud riches, but such as thou mayest get justly, use soberly, distribute cheerfully and leave contentedly; yet have no abstract nor friarly contempt of them.-Bacon.

The great lung healer is found in that excellent medicine sold as Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrap. It soothes and diminishes the sensibility of the membrane of the throat and air passages, and is a sovereign remedy for all coughs, colds, hoarseness, pain or soreness in the chest, bronchitis, stc. It has cured many when supposed to be far advanced in consumption

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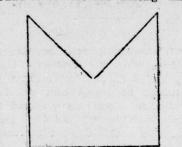
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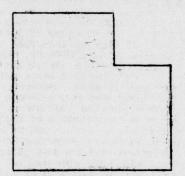
Amusement for the Little Folks.

Cutting puzzles are pretty, and encourground to be divided among his four against the other's body."

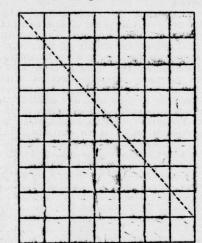


sons, so that each one receives a piece of

equal size and shape. The ladies are alway clever at such matters, and will solve by intuition a cutting problem, which is apt to baffle a trained mathematician. Take, for example, the following piece of carpet, which the lady of the house wishes to cut so as to fit a square room. With two cuts she divides it into three pieces, which

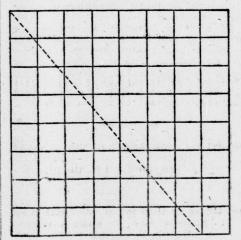


will fit together and form a perfect square, whereas a person geometrically inclined, would be apt to cut it into more pieces. Mathematicians and the male sex generally are not supposed to be up in the mysteries of cutting on the bias. Ladies always get their goods cut on the bias, and get the better of the



guileless storekeeper, as shown by an irrefutable demonstration.

Take a piece of goods, 7x9, as shown, which contains 63 square inches. Now cut on the bias, as shown by the dotted lines, clip and fit the point and arrange the parts according to the second illustration, and count the number of squares. This is a case where mathematics and geometry are weak and will have to be



The figures represent a paradoxical side of the question, and must be straightened out, or the shoppers will forever get the best of the stores.

STORIES ABOUT CATS.

Though the Poor Feline is Very Intelligent She is Much Maligned.

The cat is a much maligned animal. Because it creeps softly after its prey, it is called sly; because it is domesticated in its tastes and stays as home we say it is ungrateful, and when it resents abuse with a scratching we maintain that it is treacherous. Yet cats have been known to die of grief when their mistress died, and in many ways they exhibit intelligent traits for which we rarely give them credit. A Maine lad tells of the remarkable sagacity of a pet cat which he owns. The feline has a great fondness for the flesh of birds, and in order to make her quest for the same successful employs a stratagem. Evidently understanding that birds like angleworms, she collects a number and buries them in the ground. She then hides near by, and when the birds alight to secure their coveted morsel she springs from her concealment and pounces upon them. Many a bird thus falls a prey to pussy.

How He Won His Bet.

"Say," said the fresh young man,
"I'll bet you that I can strike that
man standing there three times with my cane and that I will not get into a fight either before or after."

The group of young men, all of whom were just as gay, readily took up the wager. They could not understand how B— could strike the stranger without producing a riot in the hotel lobby, where they stood. B-then set about hitting the stranger three times for the edification of his companions.

The target stood at the water-cooler drinking. B- having placed his cane at an angle of 45 degrees, sauntered up to him as though he, too, were

about to take a drink. When he got quite close he suddenly swung around as though to turn his back while waiting for the glass. As he did so his projecting cane rapped the old man on the elbow. Quick as a flash he turned age a taste and aptitude for geometrical in the opposite direction, as though principles. In the following illustration to face the stranger and apologize. The a farmer is supposed to have a piece of turn again swung the walking stick

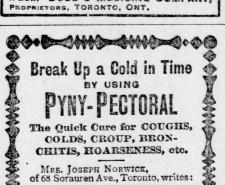
B-- at this jucture bowed very humbly and begged the stranger's pardon with great depth of feeling and Chesterfield courtesy "Certainly, sir; certainly," answered

the victim There was still one more rap to be administered. This was given as Bturned to leave the spot. "I am very awkward, sir, I beg your pardon. I assure you that it shall not

occur again." Once more he was forgiven. Then he returned to his friends, who joined in the hearty laughter.—Louisville Courier



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