

painter, and mathematician, and accomplished in all the manly sports of his age. Hans Holbein, Mozzo of Antwerp, Amico Aspertino, and Ludovico Cangiagio, were all lefthanded: though the two latter are described as working equally well with both hands. In all the fine arts the mastery of both hands is advantageous; and accordingly the lefthanded artist, with his congenital skill and his cultivated dexterity, has the advantage of his righthanded rival, instead of—as is frequently assumed,—starting at a disadvantage.

According to a brief report in the *Glasgow Herald* of a discussion in the Anthropological subsection of the British Association on the paper of Mr. James Shaw, already referred to, Dr. Robertson appealed to the demonstration by Dr. Struthers, that there is greater solidity on the right side of the body than on the left, as a fact which probably accounted for the tendency to use the right hand. But assuming this to be demonstrable, the deduction by no means follows as a necessary result. Dr. Struthers has justly said, in the treatise referred to, that “the phenomenon to be explained is not why each individual uses one hand in preference to the other, the reason of which is evident, but why all nations and tribes of mankind yet known to us should prefer the same hand. It will be admitted,” he adds, “that any theory which professes to explain this remarkable phenomenon—which has ceased to attract the notice of physiologists only because it has baffled satisfactory explanation,—deserves examination, especially when it supposes the cause to be a physical one acting within each individual.” Hence the careful investigations of Dr. Struthers, with a view to determine, *First*, the exact usual position of the several abdominal and thoracic viscera in relation to the middle line of the body; and *Second*, the relative weight of the parts of those viscera which lie on either side of the middle line, as well as to determine the absolute weight of each viscus. The results, as already stated, rest on the most satisfactory data; but they fail to account for lefthandedness. In so far indeed as the investigations were made on adults, who had through a prolonged lifetime systematically given the preference to one side over the other, some of the observed facts may have resulted from this. It is, at least, much to be desired that opportunity should be found for repeating the same class of observations on well defined lefthanded subjects. In all such reasoning there is need of a clear discrimination between cause and effect, as well as between what is natural and seemingly instinctive, and what is the result of education or