

type-writer tends still further to minimize the difficulty. It would seem, to, a wise plan to allow the left-handed penman to adopt the vertical plan in handwriting, as tending to do less violence to nature.

But does all this lengthened exposition tend only towards the inculcation of ambi dexterity after all? By no means, else were the title a misnomer. In holding, as would seem rational if the preceding position is tenable, that the vast majority of persons have naturally no bias in favor of either hand at birth, and that proper training should preserve carefully this even balance, the writer has by no means forgotten those exceptional cases, the pronouncedly and persistently right or left-handed. Not that these should not be ambidextrously trained too—perhaps all the more carefully in that the initial bias is so one-sided. This should be done in their case, too, but—and this cannot be too carefully insisted on—it should be by carefully fostering additional practice with the less-used hand, and most decidedly not by any repression of the favored member. It is probably not an exaggeration to say that all truly right or left-handed persons are exceptionally dexterous; and if so it would be absurd to hamper this dexterity. If there is any force in that so fruitful central idea of Rousseau's—"Go back to nature and follow it,"—we should apply it here as elsewhere: and how have we done it in the past, in the case of the left-handed man in particular? Not alone by neglect but by repression: not alone by hampering him but by jeering and gibing at him; as if it were a merit to be biassedly "left-brained" but a disgrace to be "right-brained"! It is not a mere accident of language that the *Bar-Sinister* on the escutcheon marked the man of illegitimate birth: this semi-contemptuous heraldic use of the word but too faithfully reflected what was once the general opinion as to the dexterity of the man who preferred his left hand. We have gone out of our way to make tools—scissors, for example—which could almost, if not quite, as well have been left similar-sided, so awkward for him as to almost prohibit his use of them by his preferred hand. It is quite clear that all this is irrational; tools in as common use as those mentioned should be so constructed as to be similar-