

A well marked, and in some ways very peculiar, case of mirror writing has recently come under my notice, of which the details are as follows:

A. B., a married lady, aged 29 years, is an American of French extraction. She is highly intellectual, and is an accomplished pianist and linguist. She is markedly left-handed, and, in spite of the fact that ever since childhood she has been most strictly educated to use the right hand, she now sews with the left, and holds her table knife in that hand. She cannot remember when she began to write in mirror fashion, but thinks that she did so the first time that she attempted to write at all. She did not copy it from other mirror writing, as we might copy a picture. At first she always did it with the left hand. With unusual difficulty she learned to write with her right hand in the ordinary manner. At present she can write with facility with either hand in either manner, and I show

*Just as steam by its gain
upon time over distance
has reduced the space
which separates countries,
so will soon a com-
mercial information from
the most effectual means
of diffusing knowledge
by its interchanging the
ideas of mankind.*

E. F. B.

RIGHT HAND.

here specimens of her four methods of doing so. Of all four ways the most easy and natural for her is left-handed mirror writing. She never had any tendency to mirror speech. She can read mirror writing quite easily, but not so quickly as the ordinary form; probably the want of practice explains this. There are no signs or symptoms of any disease.

What is the explanation of ordinary mirror writing? All the cases on record seem to be ones of writing done with the left hand, and one writer refers to "left-handed or mirror writing" (F. J. Allen, on mirror writing. *Brain*, Vol. xix, 1896, page 385), thus using the terms as synonymous ones.

In my case, the writing could be done with either hand, but this point will be again alluded to. Erlenmeyer, and most subsequent writers have claimed that it was the natural way for the left hand to write, and this seems to be the correct view. In writing the letter C, for example, with the right