

to the ligation of the uterine arteries per vaginam and the exclusion of the main source of hemorrhage. Providing the vagina is sufficiently roomy and the cervix within reach, the operation should not present formidable difficulties, and in consideration of the high mortality in the central insertion, it would, if successful, extend a hope for better results in an affection which frequently calls in vain on all the resources at our command.

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## MIRROR WRITING.

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Mirror writing is that form of chirography in which the words look strange to the ordinary reader until they are reflected from a mirror, or are read *through* the paper on which they are written. When thus seen, the writing appears to be natural. On the other hand, when ordinary writing is viewed in a mirror it becomes mirror writing, and to most readers is illegible. When a page of ordinary writing is blotted, the impression left in the blotting paper is mirror writing.

The subject has from time to time attracted the notice of the profession, and there are a considerable number of cases of it on record. Perhaps the first writer to describe the condition was Erlenmeyer in 1879. Hughlings Jackson and Buchwald also early referred to it. Ireland, in 1881, brought it prominently before the profession by a paper in the *Brain* (Vol. iv, page 361), and most subsequent writers refer back to his article.

"According to Savage, mirror writing is met with in some forms of mental weakness and in conditions of mental disorder allied to the hysterical; occurring also in cases of moral perversion, where it may be only temporary and being observed more commonly among women than among men, and being most easily acquired in highly nervous people." (C. K. Mills, *Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases*, 1894, page 88.) This, however, is, I believe, a very incomplete description of the conditions in which it may occur.

A slight form of mirror writing is possessed by almost anyone who likes to try, and no doubt by practice almost anybody could learn to do it well. In true mirror writers, however, this is the way in which they naturally write. Such people seem to be invariably left-handed. Right-handed mirror writing is a purely unnatural and artificial form of chirography.