

metry in the twisting of both orbits, and partly of the mouth, to one side, that which they present to the light. In the sole it is the right side, in the turbot it is the left side, to which the eyes are turned ; but it is not uncommon to find this reversed, and in the flounder the eyes are found nearly as often on the left as on the right side." The question of anatomical symmetry is, however, a different one from that of equipoise, and the whole question of a preferential rightsided action in the case of the lower animals is still an open one. Dr. P. H. Pye-Smith says, "The primitive human condition we must suppose to have been one of perfect symmetrical structure and ambidextrous function. For this is the condition of all the higher vertebrates which can be best compared with man ; complete bilateral symmetry of all the organs is the state of the human embryo at an early stage ; and all the simpler actions, such as climbing, rowing, swimming, are performed with both hands. The alternate action of the limbs in the horse, and that of both sides together in the camel, would equally imply complete symmetry of the nervous centres ; though even here we seem to have the first step to differentiation, indicated by the preference for the right foot to lead with in the canter, which is impressed on saddle-horses for our convenience." The communication of Mr. Shaw, above referred to, is only known to me from the very brief notice of it in a local paper ; but so far as appears, he merely repeated previous statements relative to the preferential use by the elephant of its right tusk. The general result which he is indicated as affirming, in reference to the main question, is that "there is a constitutional reason for the preference given to the right hand ; but this tendency he believed had been much strengthened by habit."

The archæological evidence in proof of the antiquity of the use of the right hand may be expected to increase when attention is directed to the subject. The Vézère relics suggest its prevalence in an era when man and the mammoth were contemporary in Central Europe. The handle of a bronze sickle found in 1873 at the lake-dwelling of Möringen, on the Lake of Brienne, in Switzerland, still more conclusively demonstrates the habit in a later, though still prehistoric age. Bronze sickles have long been familiar to the antiquary among the relics of Europe's Bronze Age, and their forms have been shown in various archæological works, and included among the illustrations of Dr. Ferdinand Keller's "Lake Dwellings ;" but the example now referred to is the first known illustration of the complete hatted