

currence in old age at least, the ambidextrous man would suffer less inconvenience. Carlyle, in his reminiscences, regrets the loss of use, through paralysis, of his right hand, and complains of the difficulty of learning to use his left. Less trouble along this line would ensue if ambidexterity were the rule. It might not be out of place here to insist on the benefit of a like training of both eyes as well as both hands; in shooting, in using the microscope, or telescope, for example, it would be of manifest advantage to be able to change eyes, as one grew dimmed through fatigue.

(E) Marked one-handedness (particularly left-handedness) prevents advantageous co-operation in many manual operations, for example in military drill (including shooting) in orchestral playing, in mowing, or in reaping.

(F) The fact twice previously called attention to, namely, the readiness of interchange of function of the two sides of the brain, forms by no means the weakest of the reasons for a levelling-up process in training the hands. Does it not seem as if nature, beneficent and provident as usual, had shown design here too? The writers on Psychology frequently before referred to give numerous striking instances to the point here, but the already too-extended length of this essay prohibits more than one reference (Ladd, p. 310):—“It is a very surprising discovery that practice exclusively with a member of the body on one side, will result in improving the corresponding member of the other side. Thus Volkmann reduced the minimum perceivable distance (between two points) with the tip of his finger on both hands,—on the right from .85 to .4, and on the left from .75 to .45 of a line,—by practising exclusively with the left finger.” The writer, who is naturally left-handed, but who was never allowed to practice writing with the preferred member, finds that he can write with a fair degree of facility and clearness with the left hand, if allowed to do so with reversed slope and movement—the mirror-script, as it is called. Thus does nature, by already doing some of the work for us, show us the proper direction of training here, if we do not shut our eyes to her teachings!

Train both hands, then, where it is possible. This