

It is a monument of rare learning, evidently embracing the investigations of half a century. He traces back evidences of the remote use of the left hand as he expresses it, by palaeolithic dexterity in the working of flat arrow heads, and in the carvings of deer and buffalo horns of prehistoric man; in Egyptian *intagli* and *papyri*; through classical literature; amid the aborigines of the Fiji Islands, South Africa, Australia, and the Indians of this continent. Sir Daniel carried out his generalization with labour as a trained inquirer, and the work is remarkable for its rejection of theories based upon imperfect observation. He is the reverse of the French traveller who, finding himself in an inn where there was a young Russian girl, wrote in his diary that there were only Russian servants in the place: "*Dans ce village toutes les domestiques sont muscovites.*" Hence the value of the opinion which he has expressed, that it is estimated there are two only in every hundred who are left-handed, and that experience so far shows there are no left-handed races. So long as Sir Daniel is engaged on the inquiry in this form, he is on safe ground. He never accepts a theory without examination, without applying to it the same test which he would observe in counting the roll of bank notes he had received. When he enters the domain of medical science, he is at the mercy of the theorists he quotes, and they vary greatly. His experience was that of Hegio, the advocate in Terence's "Phormio," who when asked his views gave for his answer, "*Quot homines, tot sententiae.*" Sir Daniel accordingly becomes sceptical of what he hears. I humbly venture the remark, as any one must do, for in my poor judgment, it is one of the questions connected with the birth of humanity, which, like much of daily occurrence in this respect, must remain unsolved.

Sir Daniel in this work describes himself as having learned to use the pen in the right hand apparently with no greater effort than other boys. He proceeds to say: "In this way the right hand was thoroughly educated, but the preferential instinct remained. The slate pencil, the chalk, and penknife were still invariably used in the left hand in spite of much opposition on the part of teachers, and in later years when a taste for drawing had been cultivated with some degree of success, the pencil and brush are nearly always used in the left hand. At a comparatively early age the awkward way of using the spoon and knife at table in the left hand was perceived and overcome. Yet even now, when much fatigued, or on an occasion of unusual difficulty in carving a joint, the knife is instinctively transferred to the left hand. Alike in every case where unusual force is required, as in driving a large nail, wielding a heavy tool, or striking a blow with the fist, as well as in any operation demanding any special delicacy, the left hand is employed. Thus, for example, though the pen is invariably used in the right hand in penmanship, the crow quill and etching needle are no less uniformly employed in the left hand." He continues: "I may add that I find no difficulty in drawing at the same time with a pencil in each hand profiles of men or animals facing each other. The attempt to draw different objects, as a dog's head with the one hand, and a human profile with the other, is unsuccessful owing to the complex mental operation involved, and in this case the co-operation is apt to be between the mind and the more facile hand."

I have before remarked on the excellence of Sir Daniel's drawings to convey the idea that he must have pursued his efforts at one time with the design of following art as a calling; and there is a professional ring in these few sentences which certainly does not weaken the supposition. I was much surprised to find on the authority of Sir Daniel that Leonardo da Vinci was left-handed. Those who have visited the ruined Dominican