

o that the greatest average weight occurs between thirty and forty years of age. They do not, however, indicate any such increase in actual bulk as Dr. Brown-Sequard implies; nor does the evidence lend confirmation to the idea of any very prevalent difference in the size or weight of the two hemispheres. In the majority of cases, indeed, the comparatively early ossification of the sutures would alone suffice to preclude the possibility of such a growth of the head as Dr. Brown-Sequard assumes to be demonstrable even beyond the age of fifty-six. Without due allowance for the stiffness of a new hat, and the shrinking of an old one when out of use, the hat-measurements on which he relies may prove very deceptive. But, on his assumption relative to the normal excess of the left hemisphere of the brain, there ought to be a greater equality between the two hemispheres in a lefthanded than a righthanded person, owing to the more equal employment of the two sides of the brain by the latter. But he fails to appreciate the bearings of his own argument in the case of a lefthanded person conforming in many ways to the usage of the majority, yet instinctively giving the preference to the left hand. He dwells on the fact that very few lefthanded persons have learned to write with the left hand, and that those who can do so do not write nearly so well with it as with the right hand. "Therefore," he says, "the left side of the brain, even in persons who are lefthanded naturally—so that the right side of the brain controls the reasoning faculties and their expression,—can be so educated that the right hand, which that side of the brain controls, produces a better handwriting than that by the left hand, though that is controlled by the better developed brain." The reasoning here is alike partial and misleading. The lefthanded person systematically submits to disabilities in his efforts to comply with the usage of the majority, not only in holding his pen in the right hand, but in the direction and slope of the writing. A lefthanded race would naturally write from right to left, sloping the letters towards the left, and so would place the righthanded penman at a like disadvantage, wholly independent of any supposed change in the functions or preponderating energy of either hemisphere of the brain. But even in the absence of practice, the command of the left hand in the case of a truly lefthanded person is so great that very slight effort is required to enable him to write with ease with that hand.