

RIGHT OR LEFT-HANDEDNESS

Mystery of the Brain That Has Never Really Been Given a Satisfactory Explanation.

There is little doubt that an infant, for the first six months of its life, is ambidextrous. It uses both hands equally in a number of aimless movements. There seems to be, however, a tendency to right-handedness, which is possibly inherited, because later in life most children become right-handed.

The center in the brain which controls movements of the limbs is a line slanting downward and forward from the crown of the head. It is generally understood that the use of the right hand develops the left of the brain, and vice versa; and in this connection the question of ambidexterity is bound up with the controlling centers of the brain.

Next to the movement center for the right side, in the lowest part of the brain, lies the speech center. A predominantly right-handed man, it is supposed, develops vigorously his left movement center, and that originates a speech center next to it.

It is known that the right-handed person has a speech center in the left brain and the left-handed person a similar center in a corresponding position in the right brain.

Accepting it as a fact that people have only one center to start with, this means that they are born either right-handed or left-handed, usually the former.

LUCK IN DISCOVERY OF SONG

Melody Forgotten for Years Made Distinct Hit and a Million Copies of It Were Sold.

This is the story of a popular song which narrowly escaped a tragic fate. If for you there is no music save that of Wagner or Beethoven or Grieg, you will not shudder as you read this tale, but if your taste runs to the melodies the office boy whistles you probably will, for the song is a lilting, haunting little thing which, no doubt, you have whistled yourself.

Seven years ago, says the New York Sun, the song was submitted by an unknown composer to a large concern of music publishers. It was accepted and copies of it were printed. Then all trace of it was lost. Several months ago a song "plugger" came across the bundle of copies in the recesses of a storeroom, still wrapped as they had come from the printers. Breaking open a package, he glanced at the contents. The song was unfamiliar to him who had "plugged" all the "sure-fire hits" of the firm for ten years or more.

He tried the song on a piano. It was a "sure-fire hit" with him, and he traced its story through the copyright dates and the firm's records. The next day the company's "pluggers" were busy with the song. Today a million copies of it have been sold and echoes of it have gone trippingly down the corridors of time.

Holiday Store.

I do not know whether I help my plane tree, but I do know that my plane tree helps me. . . . One glance at its gentle gestures opens up the vista and the vision of the great company of green angels far away. Somewhere is a paradise where the sky is not slashed and wounded by the sharp edges of roofs. I can see the little woods sleeping on the breast of the little hills. I can follow the flight of the old rooks as they come home at sunset. I can see the brown water sliding under the thirsty willows. I can watch the long, delicious shudder of the lake of corn as the wings of the wind caress it wistfully while it sleeps in the arms of the sunshine.

One ought to hoard one's moods for the empty days when no moods come. After the retreat or vigil which a true holiday ought to be one ought to have a store of garnered emotions hidden in a hollow of the memory.—James Douglas.

Protecting Woodwork.

To prevent the woodwork behind a stove or range scorching, wash the wood with liquid asbestos paint, mixing the paint at home in this way: Three parts gumlac, four parts sodium borate, seven parts powdered asbestos, twenty parts water. Heat the water, add the gumlac and borate and when all have been dissolved stir in the asbestos. Half a dozen coats of this mixture, dried between the applications, are not too many, and will last indefinitely.

Red Coral Long Traded In.

Trade in red coral with the Far East began in very remote times. It is mentioned in a poem by the Chinese poet Yang Fal, who died in 117 B. C., and in the time of the Han dynasty. About 200 years later a traveler was sent from China to report on the coral fishery of the Mediterranean sea. At a later date it was introduced into the Chinese materia medica.

Reinach described the trade with the Celtic races in pre-Roman times. Specimens have been found in Britain and Ireland. The Romans stopped the trade with the Celtic races, however, in order to send the coral to India in exchange for frankincense, myrrh, and precious stones.

GOING IN FOR ARCHEOLOGY

Whole World Seems to Have Made Up Its Mind to Take a Hand at the Game.

Interest in archeology everywhere has apparently been stirred up by the unparalleled fame of the Tut-Ankh-Amen discoveries. They're digging at Ur and in Yucatan; in the deserts of Gobi and the cliffs of the Ozarks; among the Zuni ruins, and the Inca remains.

No prehistoric cemetery or temple rests untouched. Even old corner stones of A. D. times acquire a new interest and inspire curiosity.

All the present world being explored, the North pole found and David Livingstone's Darkest Africa divided with railroads, nothing is left but the hoary past and the planets.

They are looking for the grave of Abraham at this moment, and relics of the ark might be revealed by running a drift into the washed-down detritus of Mount Ararat.

Archeology has gathered together all the rusty spoons and buckles on Jamestown island and put them in a handsome glass case to show the emotions and the ruminations of high-brow visitors.

For after all, one has to think hard and somewhat passionately to be stirred by the sight of an archeological collection. By seeing what those men of legend and historical fact wore and grasped by the hand, we seek to bring ourselves to feel what they thought and were. Why we should care is a part of the mystery of psychology.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

THEIR ANNUAL DAY OF JOY

Members of the Henpecked Club, of Yorkshire, England, Gather Annually for Mutual Commiseration.

Members of the famous Yorkshire organization known as the Henpecked club held their annual meeting recently at an isolated village on the moor edge five miles out of Halifax.

It is a pretty retreat to which the president has called his "comrades of the apron strings," and, provided the members are loyal to their secret membership pledge, there is not much likelihood of any information reaching the henpeckers in time for the latter to disturb the happiness of the proceedings.

Adam is claimed as having been the founder of the Henpecked club, and today's gathering is officially described as the 5,92d annual meeting. Year after year new members are enrolled, but applicants have to pass a severe test before being admitted. Absolute proof has to be given that for every day in the year, except Easter Monday, they will obey orders issued by their wives and attend to domestic drudgery.

If any man from the West Riding was seen slinking away from his native hearth and going towards Halifax moors he may reasonably be looked upon as a henpecked husband off for his annual outing. A sure sign was his radiant smile and don't-care-a-hang gait.

Famous Castle Crumbling.

The Wartburg, an ancient castle in Eisenach, Germany, where Martin Luther translated the Bible, is threatened with decay, writes a correspondent to the Westminster Gazette.

Two bellfries, that have offered many thousands of visitors a charming picture of the wood-covered hills, are to be closed, as the stairs are rotting. Even the renowned nook where the reformer carried out his task and composed his songs is in a wretched state of disrepair.

Splendid frescoes in the galleries and the roof of the big hall are crumbling. Old warders who, for more than forty years, have devoted every attention to the Wartburg, are leaving owing to a lack of funds necessary for its preservation.

"The Wartburg does not belong to Germany alone," states Doctor Demmer in an appeal. "It belongs to the whole world of culture and religion. Give us money to keep our sanctuary, for you, for us, and for the world."

To Preserve Famous Home.

The home of Annie Laurie, Craighdarroch, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, where she lived after marriage, is to be sold. Mrs. Ferguson survived her husband, and the present mansion house of Craighdarroch was largely built under her directions. She died in 1761 at the age of seventy-nine. At Craighdarroch there has been carefully treasured for more than a century, "The Whistle," a drinking trophy which inspired Robert Burns' ballad of that name. It is made of wood and was brought from Denmark by a Dane of gigantic stature, who went to Scotland in the train of Queen Anne of Denmark. At the commencement of his orgies he laid the Whistle on the table, and whoever was last able to blow it was to carry it off as trophy of victory.

New Device for Testing Milk.

A novel gauge has been patented for testing milk at home. By use of the glass tube, it is possible to determine whether milk has been skimmed or diluted with water. The lower the travel sinks into the milk, the greater the dilution. A graduated scale records the result.

Christian Thankfulness.

Two hundred boys from the Naga Hill tribes of Assam went to the trenches in France. Forty were Christians. The other 160 confessed Christ and were baptized while in the army. On their return, every one gave a month's wages to mission work as a thank-offering for their preservation.

BIRDS TRAVEL FAR AND FAST

Some Peculiarities of Their Migration Have Never Been Understood, or at Least Explained.

The fastest travelers in the world are arriving in Britain just now.

Few people have any idea of the speed with which the migrant birds get here from Africa by taking the upper air-lanes, where the air is much thinner and very high speeds are possible.

Gatke considered that the little Arctic blue-throat (one of the warblers, no bigger than a robin) left Africa at dusk and reached Heligoland nine hours later.

It thus flies 1,600 miles in one prodigious span at 180 miles an hour. The swallow easily manages 100 miles an hour, and the swift 150.

One of the chief reasons for these migrants knowing where they are going is the fact that in clear air at a height of from one to five miles they have a bold map outlined below them.

They see France before they leave Africa. While still over Holland they see Sweden. An altitude of five miles gives a man a view for 225 miles—and a bird's vision is even more acute.

Bird migration offers a wonderful field for research. One of the mysteries to be solved is why storks, coming north from their winter in India and South Africa, ignore Britain and settle to nest in Germany, Holland, and Denmark.—London Tit-Bits.

IRRIGATION SCHEME IS BIG

But If Carried Out It Will Restore Fertility to the Great Plain of Jordan.

The Dead sea will soon come to life and the land which in Joshua's time "flowed with milk and honey" is to come into its own again, according to Albert Hiorth, outlining a scheme for the irrigation of the plain of Jordan between the Lake of Genesareth and the Dead sea, to the members of the Victoria institute in London. Wide areas, he said, were covered with fertile soil suitable for cultivation, and irrigation was only needed in those districts. The irrigation scheme proposed was to build canals on both sides of the River Jordan and parallel with it. Throughout their length the canals would be furnished with suitable outlets for the distribution of water over the plains sloping toward the Jordan. As a source of energy, there is planned a hydro-electric plant on the western shore of the Dead sea, which would receive its energy from the Mediterranean through a tunnel under Jerusalem. The scheme, added the lecturer, was far from new—it was probably 2,000 to 3,000 years old, but its realization had never been demanded nor had it been feasible until now.

New Bird Reservation.

A 40-acre tract adjoining the elk refuge near Jackson, Wyo., has been established as a new national bird reservation by executive order. It will be known as the Flat Creek reservation, and will serve throughout the year as a breeding and resting place for the wild fowl and other birds of the region. Late in fall and in winter it will serve another purpose in affording additional pasturage to the elk herds coming down from the mountains in and about the Yellowstone national park to winter in the Jackson Hole region. Both the elk refuge and the Flat Creek reservation are under the jurisdiction of the biological survey of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Smallest Book in the World.

The smallest book in the world, so far as is known, is preserved in an out-of-the-way corner of the British museum. This miniature volume is not so wide as a man's thumb; but despite its microscopical dimensions it is most beautifully finished, and is a wonderful specimen of the printer's art.

It consists of no less than 100 pages of extremely thin paper, and the engravings are highly creditable pieces of work, and are printed in colors. The exact size of the book, taking the measurements of the outside covers, is 3/8 by 1/2 inch. It bears the date 1830, and is therefore eighty-four years old. The title of this, curiosity is "Schlorr's English Bijou Almanac."

Electricity From the Air.

Joseph Dezsoffy, a young Hungarian engineer, he is only twenty-two years old, is reported to have invented an apparatus for extracting electric current from the air without the least expense. The chief feature of his device is a mast similar to those which are used for wireless telegraphy, and the electric energy gained from the air varies according to the height of the mast. He claims that he would be able to reach 40,000 volts at an altitude of 900 feet. The inventor has fitted several houses with his apparatus, supplying electric current for their lighting. It has been observed that the current is strongest at noon and weakest at about midnight.

Riches in Philippines.

Diamond drilling has proved there are at least 3,000,000 tons of semi-anthracite, besides large deposits of subbituminous coal, in the Philippines islands. Dr. Warren D. Smith, head geologist of the University of Oregon and authority on the mineral wealth of our antipodal possession, declared recently. The islands also possess the largest gold mine in that Far East, which has turned out \$1,000,000 worth of the precious metal in one year, he said. Petroleum, iron, silver, sulphur and asbestos are also found.

THEORIES AS TO DIAMONDS

Many Causes Put Forward for the Breaking of the Hardest Stone Known to Exist.

Much attention has been given to the question of the origin of the numerous broken fragments of diamonds found in the Kimberly mines. One hypothesis is that these fragments owe their condition to violent eruptive outbursts that shattered the rocks in which they occur. Another common belief is that certain classes of diamonds frequently break spontaneously. One authority states that light brown, smoky diamonds often crack on exposure to the dry air, but they will remain intact if kept in a moist place. In accordance with this notion there is a popular story of South African diamonds being sent to England inside potatoes.

Another authority seems to attribute the fractures to the sudden lowering of pressure in the space surrounding diamonds and speaks of consequent explosion. He states that he has met persons who have heard of the bursting of smoky diamonds, but none who ever witnessed this phenomenon with his own eyes.

This idea of the bursting of diamonds is of great antiquity. Albertus Magnus says that a diamond immersed in the fresh, warm blood of a goat will burst, especially if that animal had previously browsed on parsley or drunk wine. Pliny vouchsafes a similar notion.

The majority of modern authorities believe that, in most cases, the breaking of diamonds has been due to the energy exerted by the mineral inclusions which they so often contain. These are most frequently garnet, but sometimes zircon, limonite, iron pyrites and possibly chrysolite. The thermal expansion of nearly all crystals, except those of the beryl family, at ordinary temperatures is much greater than that of the diamond. If the same is true under intense conditions of heat and temperature, differences in the rate of expansion and contraction of the diamond and its inclusion would account for the shattering.—Washington Star.

WATERWAY NOT NEW IDEA

Project of Connecting the Ocean Through Canal Across America Is Ancient One.

As early as 1522—seven years before the Panama canal project was first talked about—Gil Gonzales Divala explored Nicaragua in an effort to find a natural waterway or to select a route for a possible canal. In 1550 Antonio Galvano, a Portuguese navigator, proposed four routes for a canal across the isthmus—one by Lake Nicaragua and the San Juan river. The latter route was surveyed for the Spanish government in 1781, by Don Manuel Gualisteo. About fifty years later John Bailey, an American, mapped out the route, and in 1872 the American government became interested. President Grant particularly favored a Nicaraguan canal. A company was formed and a construction expedition actually arrived on the scene, but the firm went into the hands of receivers.

The French started the Panama canal scheme, but because of rotten politics at home and yellow fever on the isthmus, it ended in dismal failure for them. The United States bought out the French interests and dug the Panama canal, but only after it had waged a strenuous battle against disease in Panama and reclaimed that country to health and sanitation.

Suggestion for Painters.

Painters have painted the first long pants, the first step, the first love, the first snow, the first violets and the first dance. But no one has ever painted the first shave.

The first shave is a dramatic and profound adventure. Sometimes it is for the sake of a girl and sometimes it is undertaken out of a growing admiration for the sandpaper on father's cheek.

It is also secret. With father's brush and soap the face is lathered behind closed doors and with father's razor the countenance is harrowed, raked and scraped. Disappointment is great that there is no loud, rasping sound as the down is harvested. One young man, now known to his few friends as a modest, manly and simple-spoken citizen, went so far as to shave his forehead on this occasion long ago.

Vienna Police Camera.

Some months ago, in Vienna, I saw a very ingenious photographic camera, invented by the official photographer to the police of that city. When taking the photograph of the scene of a crime the camera superimposed a scale upon the plate in such a way that a scale plan was no longer necessary, since the scale showed the exact distance in centimeters of every object in the field from the camera and from every other object. The invention had been in use in Vienna for some time, but it was unknown to any other force.—Sir Basil Thomson in the Saturday Evening Post.

Milton's Comeback.

No one has ever called John Milton a wit, yet the great poet could on occasion say a snappy thing, as an old letter, recently discovered, shows. Charles II desired to meet Milton, and when he did he made the bitter remark, "God hath punished you for your malice toward my father by taking away your eyesight."
"Aye," said Milton, "but before I lost my eyes he lost his head."—Boston Evening Transcript.

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