

LEFT-HANDED THEORIES

Brilliant and Untenable Notions About This Condition.

MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE

Some Doctors Claim Left-handedness Transmitted From Mother Carrying Child on Left Arm and Developing Left Side at Expense of the Right.

More guesswork—scientific, quasi-scientific, unscientific and anti-scientific—has been applied to the solution of this question of right and left handedness than to any other physiological subject probably, and the mystery still remains unsolved. One thing, however, is certain, that there was never a race of men or women which was completely ambidextrous, or both-handed, nor any which was not predominantly right-handed, nor any in which a considerable proportion were not left-handed. Indians on the plains, Eskimos in the Arctic snows, negroes in the African jungle, Chinese, Hindus, black Australians, are right and left handed—but always the right-handed have the majority.

It is also certain that the seat of right and left handedness is in the brain, and that right-handed people have a special development, to cover the characteristic, in the left lobe of the brain, and left-handed people a special development in the right lobe of the brain.

Charles Reade, the great English novelist, wrote volumes to try to prove that people make their children right-handed by forcing them to handle the spoon, the knife and other articles with the right hand. His theory was that, unless the child were so guided, it would use either hand indifferently, and grow up both-handed; that all people, in fact, were intended by nature to be both-handed, and that either right or left handedness is a perversion. But it is doubtful if Reade ever convinced any one who has observed the persistent determination of any child to give preference either to one hand or the other.

Charles Reade's theory, by the way, took no account of the fact that people are right handed and left handed. It would be absurd to suppose that a natural equality of force and suppleness between the legs could be destroyed by making a child hold a spoon in its right hand.

A child, or a grown person, may be made by training and practice quite ambidextrous, but no person can be cured of the feeling of right-handedness or left-handedness as the case may be. Though we may not think of it, men are never entirely free from the positive sensation of a physical superiority on one side of the body above the other. Right or left handedness is ingrained in the consciousness.

This last mentioned fact destroys another pretty notion, that the right hand of one right handed person may be the same thing as the left hand of another, that is to say, that the whole human outfit of hands so to speak is graded up from a minimum to a maximum of dexterous capability, often modified by usage that a "hands" person, for instance, may have two right hands, and a clumsy and unskillful person may merely possess two left hands.

The first left handed man of whom I can recall any account in literature was Ehud the Benjamite, who made use of his peculiarity to enable him to assassinate King Eglon of Moab with that hand while he was pretending to give the tyrant a present from the Israelites with the right. As in this deed the left-handed man was carrying out an edict of the Lord, the first Scriptural mention of left-handedness is associated with an honorable distinction. But the opposite association of superior honor attached to the right hand goes back further than that. The Almighty is continually made right-handed in the Bible from Exodus xv 6 down.

It is a curious fact, too, that the Hebrews used the right hand to denote the south, from which quarter the power of the sun comes; "Jamim," the right hand, being the south, and "shemol," the left hand, the negative and unenergized north.

But all these expressions are from the point of view of right-handed people. If there were such a thing as left-handed people, all the expressions would be the other way.—L. E. W.

Proportion of Births and Deaths.

M. Jacques Bertillon has recently developed the law of the parallelism of the movement of population, according to which the birth rate and the death rate are equally proportioned in the same country. Thus births and deaths are high and low in the same country in the same proportion. According to statistics furnished for the whole of Europe this law may be verified to the letter. Thus in the ten countries in which the mortality is lower than 20 per 1,000 inhabitants there are only one or two in which the birth rate is higher than 30 per 1,000. In the countries in which the mortality exceeds 20 the birth rate always exceeds 30, and is not lower than 35 in any other countries except in Baden, Wurtemberg, and Italy.—Translated from the Revue Scientifique.

Among every forty deaths in Germany there is one from cancer; the number of new cases is about 30,000 a year.

CHINA AWAKENING.

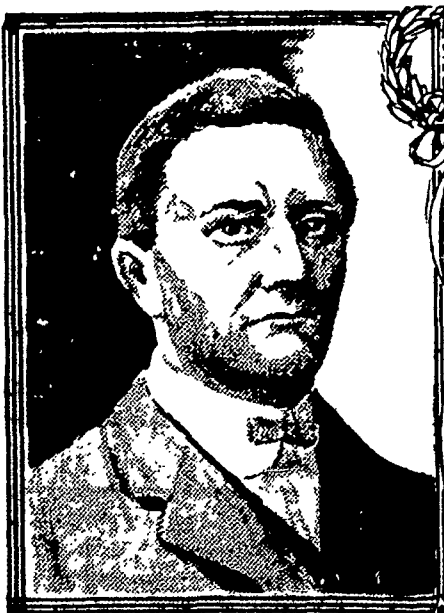
Signs of Impending Activity in Her Vast Population.

Out of over eleven hundred new works in Chinese that have been issued up to date by native publishing houses, one hundred and twenty, or more than 10 per cent, are on the art of war. Those on other subjects wholly foreign to Confucianism and Chinese methods in the past are numerous, such as works on education, political economy, government, law, and the mutual relations of nations. To these and collateral subjects no fewer than three hundred and sixty publications are devoted, while a hundred and thirty take up the subjects of mathematics and mechanics. Some thirty have been published on the science of agriculture, and twice as many on electricity, chemistry, and science generally; some forty on philosophy and seventy on hygiene. Works on literature, languages, astronomy and higher subjects go to complete the list of books with which the native publishing houses at Shanghai and elsewhere are described by a correspondent as literally flooding the country.

In connection with this subject it may also be mentioned that whereas a few years ago there were only seven newspapers in all China, there are now 157 dailies, weeklies and monthlies discussing public questions and publishing news of the outside world. It is even said that there is probably hardly a Chinese family of any consequence in any of the treaty ports or Peking that does not take in one or more native papers. What this signifies can only be understood when it is remembered that less than fifty years ago no one in China, except the Mandarins, whose business was politics and money making took the slightest interest in public affairs. A good deal of this progressive movement is undoubtedly due to Japanese influence, but much more, as is now being seen, to Chinese initiative, forced on by Western pressure and aggression. The virtual director of the Chinese Board of Commerce during the past year was its Japanese adviser, and Japanese explorers have visited all the outlying provinces of the empire from the frontier of Siberia to Tibet, and as far west as Kashgar. They have been active in studying the resources of this immense territory, into which Chinese are pressing steadily from the overpopulated provinces of Western China, displacing the nomads and occupying the soil; and one Japanese traveller has made a complete report on the Central Asian trade routes after an exploration extending over two years.

An English writer, reviewing the situation generally, says that the mental attitude of China today is one of critical importance. Its people in thought are breaking away from their old moorings, whether to cut out a path for themselves or to fall under the influence of others cannot yet be determined, but the tendency is distinctly toward the Japanese in quarters where foreign influence is welcomed. The British opium wars and opium trade and the exclusion laws of Australia, the atrocities and devastation that marked the advance of the European troops to Peking in 1900 and the latest reports received in China from the South African gold mines of the treatment of the coolies working there, are described as having almost completely alienated the Chinese from European influences. As the London Spectator has been forced to say: "There never was a civilized people who have suffered such a series of appalling insults as China."

Here, then, is an opportunity for American statesmanship that if allowed to pass may never be recovered. It is one transcending almost every other question connected with our foreign relations, for a sympathetic attitude on our part toward China at a moment when it is undergoing a transformation amounting almost to a new birth, can win for us all and more than aggression and cannon have lost to Europe. A recent dispatch announces the formation of a Chinese deliberative assembly to assist the Government in being more important even than that regarding the decision said to have been arrived at by the Czar to summon the old Russian zemski sobor.—New York Sun



Governor E. W. Hoch, of Kansas.

Match-Box Furniture.

A London hotel-keeper possesses remarkable suit of furniture. For many years he had collected empty match boxes, which were eventually made by a skilled cabinet-maker into articles of furniture. The outfit consists of a waiting table with smoking apparatus, a fire-screen, a cabinet, a chair and smaller articles, in the construction of which many thousands of boxes were employed.

TREES WIRELESS ANTENNAE

Continuance of Major Squier's Experiments Will Likely Be of Value.

A correspondent of the Electrical World and Engineer, writing on the recent experiments by Major G. O. Squier, U. S. A., in using trees for wireless telegraph antennae, bears out the theory and practice of Major Squier, saying that some experiments he has made show that a tree can be made to give excellent results. He says, further, that he cannot report upon the use of a tree as a transmitting station. "I started first," he says, "with the intention of using a tree to elevate a wire that should be well insulated. As an alternative measure it seemed that an insulated wire resting on the treetop would at least give some results as a receiver, since the incoming impulses would not be of high potential. Copper double-coated paraffin-insulated bell wire was first used, and four wires were carried over the treetop in different directions and both ends of each wire were connected to a wire leading to suitable receiving apparatus, 100 feet away. The result was that on one occasion, with favorable conditions, a distant station, presumably New York, was so distinctly heard that an expert could have readily read the message. At one time both the New Haven De Forest station and the distant station were sending at the same time. The sound of the distant station was not completely overpowered. The New Haven station (three miles off) stopped, and then the distant station continued sounding and came out clearly.

"As it will probably be of general interest to know that a station eight miles away has been heard by using an elm tree two feet in diameter and sixty or seventy feet high as an antenna, the ground for belief that the distant station was New York will, therefore, be stated. A day or two before the time alluded to, the New Haven station announced that after some time spent in tuning they had succeeded in calling up New York, and a few days later a number of messages were exchanged between the stations, which were published and the statement was added that New York was the only station available at present from the New Haven station.

"It was now suspected that the cover on the wire was practically a poor insulator, and that therefore the success did not depend upon the insulation. Later two large trees have been tried with bare galvanized wire, used in the same way, as was the insulated wire on the first tree. The result indicates that the bare wire works fully as well, if not better, than the insulated wire, as far as receiving is concerned. We have now arrived at what appears to be an extension of the reported method of Major Squier. The connection is made with the top of the tree instead of the upper part of the trunk, and instead of a ground at the bottom of the tree, another is provided at a distance. A tin roof was used at times.

"One more point will be mentioned, as it has a bearing on the use of trees as antennae. One large maple tree some 600 feet away gave good results over an iron telephone wire utilized for this connection. The distant call mentioned came out clearly on this wire. This opens up the possibility of combining the effect of a large number of isolated trees, each tuned by itself and all connected to one receiver, to increase the effect. I will mention that this distant tree gave strong effects with little regard to tuning when tested on the nearer New Haven station, while the nearer tree responded with more readiness to change in the tuning apparatus.

"Although trees may not be able to displace artificial antennae for the best long-distance work, it may turn out that the wide-spreading, many-branched top of a tree will furnish a model for the artificial antennae and guy wires, with additional attachment to contribute to the result. The fact that trees can be so readily prepared for use as antennae will doubtless greatly popularize the use of wireless telegraphy. Iron wire answers a good purpose at a considerable saving of expense. Wires can be pulled over a tree by a cord which has been drawn up by a thread. The thread is first thrown over attached to a weight which is projected by a rubber sling."



George F. Hagerup, Premier of Norway, who favors separation from Sweden.

Roads in Norway. Norway is famous for her many miles of excellent roads and the wonderful feats of engineering achieved that good, solid roads might be had with the least possible grade over mountains of considerable altitude.

De Weddin' Dat Nevah Cum Off.

Vivace.

Moderato.

1. 'Twarin de month of Sep-tem-bah, De wed-din' dat nev-ah cum off,
2. 'Twarayoung manshe'ddunand ketched on; In sin, he wantyet fur a-stray,
3. Now his maw madesuch op-po-si-tion Tudebridedat wartak-en' him in.

Why foahl! I nowdis-re-mem-bah, But may-be-her true-so, warahort
An'his maw, a true la-dy, bet an' Tu save him, the bride gib a-way,
Dat de young man hisself madede-cl-sion Foah tu mar-ry her'twould be a sin.

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Yet'sar-tin dat dis,war'n'tdar rea-son, Foahheroul-lad gal gib her a-way,
She tole how the bride that'would be, Indawed-din' dat nev-ah cum off,
So he dun chuck de 'hole thing o-vah, De flat and de bride'twer tu be.

Sed her 'lit-tle old mis-sus war' tu young, Warshad-y, and like ways tu gay,
Had been grafted tu husbands one, tu, three, And of beaux, she nev-ah warshoot,
An' he sed, "You kin fool oth-er nig-gahs, But I rek-on you'll nev-ah fool me."

CHORUS.
Largo.

'T'wartu be like a great big ball, With soft chairs for the friends tu loll.

DANCE. Vivace.

DE WEDDIN' DAT NEVAH CUM OFF.