



RIGHT HAND, LEFT HAND

Chris McManus

Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £20

Spanning disciplines from genetics to folklore, McManus's account of 'handedness' must be one of the most intellectually capricious science books this year. The question of left-handedness unfurls into a flurry of other asymmetries: why is the heart on the left? Why are we made of left-amino acids and not their right-sided mirror images? McManus doesn't push wholly back to the great asymmetry of the Big Bang — why should there be more matter than anti-matter? — but it's a tiny niggle in a work of such breadth of erudition.

Also Try: *S Springer, G Deutsch. Left Brain. Right Brain*