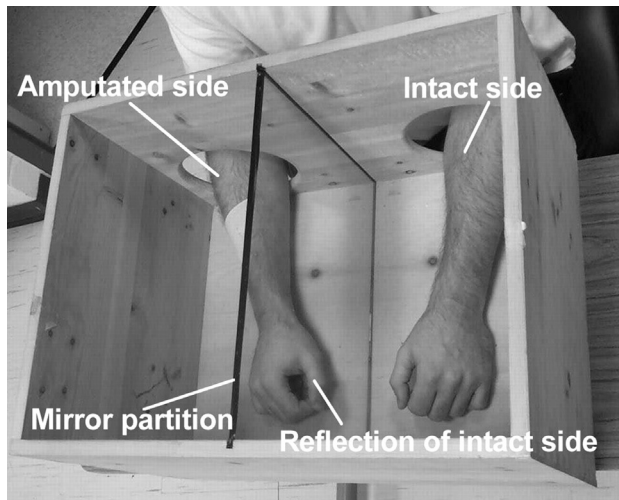




LENS

Awareness of the Body and the Brain



Mirror box in which the mirror image of the left hand makes the right hand appear to be present.

Source: Hunter, J. P. (2003). The effect of tactile and visual sensory inputs on phantom limb awareness. *Brain*, 126(3), 579–589. By permission of Oxford University Press.

Tom was driving home from soccer practice when a car crossed over into his lane. He put on his brake, but his car went out of control and he was thrown out of it. He looked up to see that his hand was missing. Tom lost his left arm just above the elbow, but strangely, he could still feel it as if it were there. He had the sense of moving each finger of his hand and being able to grab an object. Tom is not alone in his sensation of a lost limb. This phenomenon has been reported since antiquity, and following the U.S. Civil War, it came to be known as *phantom limb*. Not only do individuals with a lost limb experience its presence, but over 70% of them also experience pain in the missing limb, which can last for years after the amputation surgery or accident.

An intriguing way to treat the pain, which may involve the mirror neuron system, is referred

(Continued)