

or to assist in recovering it when washed out, for the benefit of the owners and underwriters; a vessel employed in this occupation.

WREN, ren, *n.* a well-known small bird. [A.S. *wrenna*; cf. the Gael. *dreadhan*, Ir. *drean*.]

WRENCH, rensh, *v.t.* to *wring* or pull with a twist: to force by violence: to sprain. —*n.* a violent twist: a sprain: an instrument for turning bolts, etc. [A.S. *urenca*; Ger. *renken*; from WRING.]

WREST, rest, *v.t.* to *twist* from by force: to twist from truth or from its natural meaning. —*n.* violent pulling and twisting: distortion. —*n.* WREST'ER. [A.S. *wrestan*; Dan. *wriste*; perh. from the root of WRITHE.]

WRESTLE, res'l, *v.i.* to contend by grappling and trying to throw the other down: to struggle. —*n.* a bout at wrestling: a struggle between two to throw each other down. —*n.* WREST'LER. [A.S. *wrestlian*; from *wrestan*, E. WREST.]

WRETCH, rech, *n.* a most miserable person: one sunk in vice: a worthless person. [Lit. "an outcast," A.S. *wrecca-urecan*, E. WREAK.]

WRETCHED, rech'ed, *adj.* very miserable: worthless. — *adv.* WRETCH'EDLY. — *n.* WRETCH'EDNESS. [From WRETCH.]

WRIGGLE, rig'l, *v.i.* to *twist* to and fro. — *v.t.* to move by wriggling. —*n.* WRIGGLER. [Extension of obs. *wrig*, conn. with A.S. *wrigian*. See WRY.]

WRIGHT, rit, *n.* a maker (chiefly used in compounds, as ship-*wright*, etc.). [A.S. *wyrhta* — *worhte*, pa.p. of *weorcan*, E. WORK.]

WRING, ring, *v.t.* to *twist*: to force by twisting: to force or compress: to pain: to extort: to bend out of its position. — *v.i.* to writh: to twist: — *pa.t.* and *pa.p.* wrung, (*B.*) wringed. [A.S. *wringan*; Ger. *ringen*, to wriggle, twist; allied to WRIGGLE. Cf. WRENCH.]

WRINKLE, ring'kl, *n.* a small ridge on a surface from twisting or shrinking: unevenness. — *v.t.* to contract into wrinkles or furrows: to make rough. — *v.i.* to shrink into ridges. [A.S. *wrincl* — *wrinca*, *wringan*, to wring; Dut. *wronckel*, a twisting; dim. of WRING.]

WRINKLY, ring'kli, *adj.* full of wrinkles: liable to be wrinkled.

WRIST, rist, *n.* the joint by which the hand is united to the arm. [A.S. *wrist*; Ger. *rist*.]

WRISTBAND, rist'band, *n.* the band or part of a sleeve which covers the wrist.

WRIT, rit, *n.* a *writing*: (*law*) a written document by which one is summoned or required to do something. — HOLY WRIT, the Scriptures.

WRITE, rit, *v.t.* to form letters with a pen or pencil: to express in writing: to compose: to engrave: to record: to communicate by letter. — *v.i.* to perform the act of writing: to be employed as a clerk: to compose books: to send letters: — *pr.p.* writ'ing; *pa.t.* wröte; *pa.p.* writt'en. [A.S. *writan*; Ice. *rita*; the original meaning being "to scratch" (cf. the cog. Ger. *reissen*, to tear).]

WRITER, rit'er, *n.* one who *writes*: a scribe or clerk: an ordinary legal practitioner in Scotch country towns: an author. — WRITER'S CRAMP, a spasmodic affection frequently attacking persons (generally middle-aged) who have been accustomed to write much. The patient loses complete control over the muscles of the thumb and the fore and middle finger, so that all attempts to write regularly, and in the severer cases even legibly, are unsuccessful. The various methods of treatment for this trouble (such as surg-

ical operations, the application of electricity, etc.) have not generally produced very satisfactory results, entire cessation from writing for a considerable time seeming to be the only course open to the patient. Called also SCRIVENER'S PALSY.

WRITERSHIP, rit'er-ship, *n.* the office of a *writer*.

WRITHE, rit'h, *v.t.* to *turn* to and fro: to *twist* violently: to *wrest*. — *v.i.* to *twist*. [A.S. *wridhan*, to twist; Ice. *ridha*; L. *vertere*, Sans. *urat*. See WREATH, WRATH, and WROTH.]

WRITING, rit'ing, *n.* act of forming letters with a pen: that which is written: a document: a book: an inscription: — *pl.* legal deeds: official papers.

WRONG, rong, *adj.* not according to rule or right: not fit or suitable: incorrect: not right or true. — *n.* whatever is not right or just: any injury done to another. — *adv.* not rightly. — *v.t.* to do wrong to: to deprive of some right: to injure. — *adv.* WRONG'LY. [Lit. "twisted," from WRING; cf. Fr. *tort*, from L. *tortus*, twisted.]

WRONGFUL, rong'fool, *adj.* wrong: unjust: injurious. — *adv.* WRONG'FULLY. — *n.* WRONG'FULNESS.

WRONG-HEADED, rong'hed'ed, *adj.*, *wrong* in head or mind: wrong in principle. — *n.* WRONG'-HEAD'EDNESS.

WROTE, röt, *pa.t.* of WRITE.

WROTH, rawth, *adj.* wrathful. [A.S. *wrath*, orig. sig. "twisted;" Ice. *reidh-r*, O. Ger. *reid*; from WRITHE. Cf. WRATH and WREATH.]

WROUGHT, rawt, *pa.t.* and *pa.p.* of WORK. [A.S. *worhte*, *ge-worht*.]

WRUNG, rung, *pa.t.* and *pa.p.* of WRING.

WRY, ri, *adj.*, *writhed*, twisted, or turned to one side: not in the right direction. — *n.* WRY'NESS. [A.S. *wrigian*; cf. WRIGGLE and WRITHE.]

WRYNECK, ri'nek, *n.* a *twisted* or distorted neck: a small bird allied to the woodpecker, which *twists* round its head strangely when surprised.

WRYNECKED, ri'nekt, *adj.* having a distorted neck. Some commentators in noticing the Shakespearean phrase, "the *wrynecked* fife," are of opinion that the allusion is to the player; others hold that the reference is to the instrument, which they say is the old English flute, or *flute à bec*: so called from having a curved projecting mouthpiece like a bird's beak.

WUD, wud, *adj.*, mad. [Scotch.]

WURRUS, wur'rus, *n.* a brick-red dye-powder, somewhat resembling dragon's-blood, collected from the seeds of *Rotflera tinctoria*.

WUSSE, wus, *adv.* probably a form of the *-wis* of *Y-wis*, certainly.

Why, I hope you will not a-hawking now, will you? No, *wusse*; but I'll practice against next year, uncle. — *B. Jonson*.

WUTHER, wuth'er, *v.i.* to make a sullen roar. Written also WUDDER. "The air was now dark with snow; an Iceland blast was driving it wildly. This pair neither heard the long '*wuthering*' rush, nor saw the white burden it drifted." — *C. Bronte*. [Yorkshire dialect.]

WYCH. Same as WICH.

WYCH-ELM, wich'elm, *n.* a British plant of the genus *Ulmus*, the *U. montana*. It is a large spreading tree with large broadly elliptical leaves, and grows in woods in England and Scotland. Some varieties have pendulous branches, and belong to the class of "weeping" trees. [O.E. *wiche*, *wyche*, A.S. *wice*, a name applied to various trees. "The sense is 'drooping' or bending, and it is derived from A.S. *wic-en*, pp. of *wican*, to bend." — *Skeat*.]

WYCH-HAZEL, wich'hā-zl, *n.* the common name of plants of the genus *Hamelis*, the type of the nat. order Hamelidaceæ. They are small trees, with alternate leaves on short petioles, and yellow flowers, disposed in clusters in the axils of the leaves, and surrounded by a three-leaved involucre. They are natives of North America, Persia, or China.

WYE, wi, *n.* the supports of a telescope, theodolite, or levelling instrument, so called from their resembling the letter Y. Written also Y.

WYLIE-COAT, wyl'i-köt, *n.* a boy's flannel under-dress, next the shirt: a flannel petticoat. [Scotch.]

WYND, wýnd, *n.* an alley: a lane. [Scotch.]

WYNN, win, *n.* a kind of timber truck or carriage. *Simmonds*.

WYVERN, wívrn, *n.* an imaginary animal resembling a flying serpent. [Fr. *vivre* — L. *viperd*, a viper. See VIPER.]

X

XANTHINE, zan'thin, *n.* the yellow coloring matter in certain plants, as madder. [Gr. *xanthos*, yellow.]

XANTHOCHROI, zan-thok'roy, *n.pl.* one of the five groups of men, according to Huxley and other ethnologists, comprising the fair whites. [Gr.]

XEBEC, zé'bek, *n.* a small three-masted vessel much used by the former corsairs of Algiers. [Sp. — Turkish *sumbaki*.]

XENELASIA, zen-é-lá'si-a, *n.* a Spartan institution which prohibited strangers from residing in Sparta without permission, and empowered magistrates to expel strangers if they saw fit to do so. [Gr., the expulsion of strangers.]

XENIUM, zé'ni-um (*pl.* XENIA, zé'ni-a), *n.* anciently, a present given to a guest or stranger, or to a foreign ambassador: a name given to pictures of still life, fruit, etc., such as are found in houses at Pompeii. *Fairholt*. [L. from Gr. *xenion*, a gift to a guest, from *xenos*, a guest.]

XENODOCHEUM, zen-o-dō-ké'um, XENODOCHIUM, zen-o-dō-kí'um, *n.* a name given by the ancients to a building for the reception of strangers. The term is also applied to a guest house in a monastery. [Gr. *xenodocheion* — *xenos*, a stranger, and *dechomai*, to receive.]

XENODOCHY, zen-od'o-ki, *n.* reception of strangers: hospitality. Also, same as XENODOCHEUM. [Gr. *xenodochia*. See above.]

XENOGENESIS, zen-o-jen'e-sis, *n.* the production or formation of an organism of one kind by an organism of another, as was formerly believed of parasitic worms by their hosts. *Huxley*. [Gr. *xenos*, strange, and *genesis*, birth.]

XENOGENETIC, zen-o-je-net'ik, *adj.* of or pertaining to xenogenesis. "I have dwelt upon the analogy of pathological modification which is in favor of the *xenogenetic* origin of microzymes." — *Huxley*.

XYLOGRAPHY, zi-log'raf-i, *n.* the art of engraving on wood. — *n.* XYLOG'RAPHER. — *adj.* XYLOGRAPH'IC. [Gr. *xylon*, wood, and *grapho*, I write.]

XYLOPHILOUS, zi-lof'i-lus, *adj.* growing upon or living in wood.

XYLOPHYLLA, zi-lof'il-a, *n.* a genus of Euphorbiaceæ, or, as some regard it, a section of *Phyllanthus*, consisting of shrubs without leaves, but whose branches are flattened out and leaf-like, bearing the flowers in tufts in the notches of the margin. They are na-

tives of the West Indies, and are named from the singular appearance of their leaf-like branches. [Gr. *xylon*, wood, and *phyllon*, a leaf.]

XYLOPIA, zī-lō'pi-a, *n.* a genus of plants, nat. order Anonaceæ. The species are trees or shrubs, natives chiefly of South America. *X. aromatica* is known by the name of African pepper. The fruit of *X. grandiflora* is a valuable remedy for fevers in Brazil. The wood of all is bitter; hence they are called *bitter-woods*. [Said to be contracted for *Xylopicria*, from Gr. *xylon*, wood, and *pikros*, bitter.]

XYLOPYROGRAPHY, zī-lō-pi-rog'ra-fi, *n.* the art or process of producing a picture on wood by charring it with a hot iron. [Gr. *xylon*, wood, *pyr*, *pyros*, fire, and *graphō*, to write.]

XYLORETINE, zī-lō-rē-tin, *n.* a sub-fossil resinous substance, found in connection with the pine-trunks of certain peat-mosses. [Gr. *xylon*, wood, and *rhetinē*, resin.]

XYST, zist, **XYSTOS**, zis'tos, *n.* in *anc. arch.* a sort of covered portico or open court, of great length in proportion to its width, in which the athletes performed their exercises. [L. *xystus*, Gr. *xystos*, from *xyō*, to scrape, from its smooth and polished floor.]

XYSTARCHE, zis'tārk, *n.* an Athenian officer who presided over the gymnastic exercises of the *xystos*. [Gr. *xystos*, *xyst*, and *archō*, to rule.]

XYSTER, zis'ter, *n.* a surgeon's instrument for scraping bones. [Gr. *xyster*, from *xyō*, to scrape.]

Y

Y-, a common prefix in Old English words, as in *y-cleft*, *y-clad*, etc., representing A.S. *ge-*, which assumed this form by the common weakening of *g* to *y*. The meaning of words with this prefix is usually the same as if it were absent.

YACARE, yak'a-rā, *n.* the native name of a Brazilian alligator (*Jacare sclerops*), having a ridge from eye to eye, fleshy eyelids, and small webs to the feet: the spectacled cayman. [Written also **JACARE**.]

YACCA-WOOD, yak'a-wood, *n.* the ornamental wood of *Podocarpus coriacea*, a small tree of Jamaica. It is of a pale-brown color with streaks of hazel-brown, and is much used in the West Indies for cabinet work.

YACHT, yot, *n.* a light swift-sailing vessel, elegantly fitted up for pleasure-trips or racing. [Dut. *jagt* (formerly *jacht*), from *jagen*, to chase.]

YACHTER, yot'er, *n.* one engaged in sailing a *yacht*.

YACHTING, yot'ing, *n.* sailing in a *yacht*.

YAK, yak, *n.* a large kind of ox, domesticated in Central Asia.

YAM, yam, *n.* a large root like the potato growing in tropical countries. [West Indian *ihame*.]

YAMA, yā'ma, *n.* in *Hind. myth.* the god of departed spirits and the appointed judge and punisher of the dead: the embodiment of power without pity, and stern, unbending fate. He is generally represented as crowned and seated on a buffalo, which he guides by the horns. He is four-armed and of austere countenance. In one hand he holds a mace, in another a noose which is used to draw out of the bodies of men the souls which

are doomed to appear before his judgment-seat. His garments are of the color of fire, his skin is of a bluish green. **YAMER**, yā'mer, **YAMMER**, yām'mer, *v.i.* to shriek: to yell: to cry aloud: to whimper loudly: to whine. "The child is doing as well as possible," said Miss Grizzly; "to be sure it does *yammer* constantly, that can't be denied."—*Miss Ferrier*. [Scotch. O. E. *yomer*, A. S. *geómerian*, to lament, to groan, from *geómor*, sad, mournful, wretched; cf. Ger. *jammeren*, to lament, to wail.]

YANKÉE, yang'kē, *n.* a cant name for a citizen of New England. During the War of the Revolution, the name was applied to all the patriots; and during the Civil War it was the common designation of the Federal soldiers by the Confederates. In Britain the term is sometimes applied generally to all natives of the United States. [A word of uncertain origin. The most common explanation seems also the most plausible, namely, that it is a corrupt pronunciation of *English* or of Fr. *Anglais* formerly current among the American Indians. In Bartlett's *Dictionary of Americanisms* a statement is quoted to the effect that *Yengees* or *Yenkees* was a name originally given by the Massachusetts Indians to the English colonists, and that it was afterwards adopted by the Dutch on the Hudson, who applied the term in contempt to all the people of New England. Bartlett also quotes a statement of Heckwelder (an authority on Indian matters), who affirmed that the Indians applied the term *Yengees* specially to the New Englanders as contradistinguished from the Virginians or Long Knives, and the English proper or Saggenash. As early as 1713 it is said to have been a common cant word at Cambridge, Mass., in the sense of good or excellent, being probably borrowed by the students from the Indians, to whom a "Yankee" article would be synonymous with an excellent one, from the superiority of the white man in mechanical arts.]

YANKEE-DOODLE, yang-kē-dōō'dl, *n.* a famous air, now regarded as American and national. In reality the air is an old English one, called *Nankey Doodle*, and had some derisive reference to Cromwell. It is said that the brigade under Lord Percy, after the battle of Lexington, marched out of Boston playing this tune in derisive and punning allusion to the name Yankee, and the New Englanders adopted the air in consideration of the fact that they had made the British dance to it. The really national tune of the whole United States, however, is "Hail, Columbia!"

YARD, yārd, *n.* an E. measure of 3 feet or 36 inches: a long beam on a mast for spreading square sails. [A.S. *geard*, *gyrd*, a rod, measure; Dut. *gard*, Ger. *gerte*; further conn. with Goth. *gards*, a stick, and L. *hasta*, a pole, a spear.]

YARD, yārd, *n.* an inclosed place, esp. near a building. [A.S. *geard*, hedge, inclosure; Goth. *gards*, Ger. *garten*; conn. with L. *hortus*, Gr. *chortos*. See **COURT**, **COHORT**, and **GARDEN**.]

YARD-ARM, yārd'ārm, *n.* either half or arm of a ship's yard (right or left) from the centre to the end.

YARD-LAND, yārd'land, *n.* a quantity of land in England, different in different counties: a virgate. In some counties it was 15 acres; in others 20 or 24, and even 40 acres.

YARD-STICK, yārd'stik, *n.* a stick or rod 3 feet in length, used as a measure of cloth, etc.

YARD-WAND, yārd'wond, *n.* a yard-stick. "His cheating yard-wand."—*Tennyson*.

YARE, yār, *adj.* ready: quick: dexterous: eager—said of persons, and especially of sailors; as, to be *yare* at the helm. "Be *yare* in thy preparation."—*Shak.*: easily wrought: answering quickly to the helm: swift: lively—said of a ship. "The lesser (ship) will come and go, leave and take, and is *yare*, whereas the other is slow."—*Raleigh*. [A.S. *gearu*, prepared, ready, *yare*; akin Ger. *gar*, prepared, ready; Ice. *gør*-, *gjör*, quite: cf. Ice. *göra*, to do, to make; prov. E. *gar*, to cause to do. Akin **GARB**, **GEAR**.]

YARE, yār, *adv.* briskly: dexterously: *yarely*. *Shak.*

YARELY, yār'li, *adv.* readily: dexterously: skillfully. "Those flower-soft hands that *yarely* frame the office."—*Shak.*

YARKE, yār'kē, *n.* the native name of different South American monkeys of the genus *Pithecia*.

YARN, yār'n, *n.* spun thread: one of the threads of a rope: a sailor's story (spun out to some length). [A.S. *gearn*; Ice. and Ger. *garn*.]

YARROW, yar'ō, *n.* the plant milfoil. [A.S. *gearwe*; Ger. *garbe*.]

YATAGHAN, yat'a-gan, *n.* a long Turkish dagger, usually curved.

YAWL, yawl, *n.* a small ship's boat, with four or six oars. [Dut. *jol*. Cf. **JOLLY-BOAT**.]

YAWN, yawn, *v.i.* to open the jaws involuntarily from drowsiness: to gape.—*n.* the opening of the mouth from drowsiness. [A.S. *ganian*, *gænan*; Scot. *gan-t*, Ger. *gähnen*; conn. with Gr. *chainō*, L. *hio*, to gape. Cf. **HIATUS**.]

YAWNING, yaw'n'ing, *adj.* gaping: opening: wide: drowsy.—*n.* act of opening wide or gaping.

YAWS, yawz, *n.* a disease occurring in America, Africa and the West Indies, and almost entirely confined to the African races. It is characterized by cutaneous tumors, numerous and successive, gradually increasing from specks to the size of a raspberry, one at length growing larger than the rest; core a fungous excrescence; fever slight, and probably irritative merely. It is contagious, and cannot be communicated except by the actual contact of yaw matter to some abraded surface, or by inoculation, which is sometimes effected by flies. It is also called **FRAMBESIA**, from the French *framboise*, a raspberry. [African *yaw*, a raspberry.]

YCLAD, i-klad', *pa.p.* clad: clothed. "Her words *yclad* with wisdom's majesty."—*Shak.* [Prefix *y-*, and **CLAD**.]

YCLEPT or **YCLEPED**, i-klept', *pa.p.* called (*obs.*). [A.S. *clypian*, to call.]

YE, yē, *pron.* properly the nominative plural of the second person, of which *thou* is the singular, but in later times also used as an objective after verbs and prepositions. *Ye* is now used only in the sacred and solemn style; in common discourse and writing *you* is exclusively used. "But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified."—1 Cor. vi. 11. "Loving offenders thus I will excuse ye."—*Shak.* "I thank ye; and be blest for your good comfort."—*Shak.*

A south-west blow on ye
And blister you all o'er.—*Shak.*

"The confusion between *ye* and *you* did not exist in Old English. *Ye* was always used as a nominative, and *you* as a dative or accusative. In the English Bible the distinction is very carefully observed, but in the dramatists of the Elizabethan period there is a very loose use of the