

having the form and nature of a *beast*." Thus, the young French lady used the word correctly when she said of her pets, "I like horses, I like dogs, I like parrots; in short, I like everything that is *beastly*!"

Beasts (American cadets). At the United States Military Academy, at West Point, new cadets are so called. More appropriate and suggestive terms—though not so forcible—are used at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst—"Snooker," "Johnny;" "bejants" (*béjaunes*) is applied to freshmen at Aberdeen University.

Beat, to (American), to cheat, or "do" one out of money in any way.

Two of these eating establishments are large and busy places, wherein two good dishes can be had for a dime (fivepence). It is said that the waiters are all athletes and skilled bouncers, who are more respected by the public than any waiters ever were before. It is like trifling with dynamite to try to *beat* one of these places out of a dinner, and the bumner who does so is described as looking and feeling as if he had been through a rolling-mill when his waiter has tired of toying with him.—*Chicago Tribune*.

To "*beat* hollow," to "*beat* into fits," to "*beat* badly," to surpass or excel. A man who is wholly exhausted is said to be "*dead-beat*."

"That *beats* the bugs!" (American). The phrase is used to denote anything stupendous, incredible, incommensurable.

Probably from an old story in which some bugs showed astounding sagacity and achieved some wonderful feat in order to baffle their tormentor and extricate themselves from a perilous position. Another version is that a man to prevent the bugs from getting to his bed, made a circle of tar round it. Then they climbed up to the ceiling, and fell or jumped down on the bed. Finally, he made another circle of tar on the ceiling, and that "*beat* the bugs."

"Well, if this don't *beat* the bugs!" he'd say. "What a spot o' work this is, sartinly."—*Sam Slick*.

Mr. Atkin, in his "House Scraps," has a story of a dog that certainly "*beats* the bugs." "One said his dog was so clever that it would not go out with him unless his cartridges fit his gun. 'Well, old man, I must admit that your dog is above the average, but I'll back mine against him for a fiver. I was in our lane the other evening, when my dog pointed at a man I had never seen before, and as nothing would make him move, I went up to the man and said, 'Sir, would you oblige me with your name?' 'Yes, sir, my name is Partridge.'"

Beat, a (journalistic). "To have a *beat* on one," is to call on one.

On my return home I had what journalists call a *beat* on nearly all my acquaintances, to whom I had much that was strange and wonderful to tell concerning my travels.—*W. A. Paton: Down the Islands*.