

course now (since "Cloisted time" 1872) on Wednesday instead of Saturday. A *Bible-clerk's scob* is the first "scob" (box spelt backwards, phonetically) on the right hand as you enter school. It bears a brass plate with the inscription engraved on it: "Τω δει δαγ-ρωσση"—"To each successive reader," because *Bible-clerks* used to read the lessons at meals.

Bible-pounder (popular), a parson; termed also a "white-choker," a "devil-dodger," a "cushion-smiter."

Bibling (Winchester), a flogging consisting of six cuts on the small of the back administered by the head or second master. The term is obsolete. The *bibling-rod* was an instrument with which the punishment of *bibling* was administered. It consisted of a handle terminated by four apple-tree twigs.

Underneath is the place of execution where delinquents are "bibled." It need hardly be said that it (the rod) is applied in the ordinary fashion, six cuts forming what is technically called a *bibling*, on which occasion the Bible-clerk introduces the victim; and four being the sum of a less terrible operation called a "scrubbing."—*Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*.

Biddable (common), docile, obedient to order, tractable.

Biddy (Winchester College), a bath in college which was filled every morning for Prefects, &c., by the junior man in each

"gallery" or bed-room. The origin of the word is possibly due to the French *bidet*, an article of bed-room furniture for the use of ladies, more common on the Continent than in England. (American), an Irish servant girl.

Bidree or bidry (Anglo-Indian). Of late years all amateurs of bric-à-brac in England have become familiar with a kind of niello-work of silver patterns on a black metal ground which comes from the Deccan, and which takes its name from the city of Bidar. This is *bidree* work. The ground is made of three parts pewter to one of copper, which is inlaid with the silver, and the ground is then blackened.—*Madras Literary Society Journal*, New Series, I. 81-84.

Biff (Americanism), to give a "biff in the jaw," to strike one in the face. In England to "fetch you a wipe in the mug," or "give you a bang in the chops," are choice. *Biff* is from the provincial English *befet* or *buffet*, a blow; old French *bufet*. Possibly Anglo-Saxon *bifjan*, to shake.

Biffin (popular), "my *biffin*" is a friendly appellation.

"Ain't that up to Dick, my *biffin*?" "I never said it warn't."—*J. Greenwood: Under the Blue Blanket*.

Big as all out o' doors, a humorous Americanism for any-