

**Brown Bessie**, an old word for a woman of easy or uneasy virtue. Also *black Bess*.

Things proffered and easie to come by diminish themselves in reputation and price, for how full of pangs and dotage is a wayling lover, for it may bee some *brown Bessie*.—*Dore's Polydoron*, 1631.

"*Bonny black Bess*" was a very popular scandalous ballad a century ago.

**Brown bill** (old), the old weapon of the English infantry.

**Brown George** (nautical), a hard and coarse biscuit.

**Brownie** (whalers), the polar bear.

**Brown Janet** (nautical), a knapsack.

**Brown Joe** (rhyming slang), no.

**Brown papermen** (popular), explained by quotation.

But the little nick (a gambling-house) is what we call only *brown papermen*, low gambling, playing for pence, and a shilling being a great go.—*Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor*.

**Brown stone** (American), beer.

**Brown talk** (common), conversation of an exceedingly proper character.

**Brown typhus**, **brown titus**, and in America **brown creeturs**, an attempt at the pronunciation of bronchitis, or the names frequently given by the lower orders to that common disease. These misnomers are sometimes most amusing, as, for in-

stance, a poor woman had been told she had *myxedema*, and informed a second medical man that her first doctor had said that she had got *Nicodemus*; but, she added, he could not cure it.

**Brownie** (thieves), a penny.

Dols. is *brownies*, as we call 'em sometimes, that's pence.—*Hamilton Auld: Morals and Mysteries*.

**Browse**, to, to enjoy oneself, to idle about, to loll in the sun. French *faire son lézard*. The expression is much used by gentlemen cadets of the Royal Military Academy. In the United States, to eat here and there, now and then, an expression of Abraham Lincoln's.

**Bruiser** (prison), the bully who is a hanger-on of prostitutes.

The *bruiser* is the nearest approach to Dickens' hero, Bill Sykes.—*Michael Davitt: Leaves from a Prison Diary*.

(Common), a pugilist. (Pugilistic), a prize-fighter. (Popular), one fond of fighting.

C., who is known in the neighbourhood as a "great *bruiser*," pleaded that he made a mistake, and thought Conway was molesting the woman, who he also mistook for his wife. He goes to jail for six weeks.—*Echo*.

**Brum** (Winchester), stingy, mean. Probably an abbreviation of Brummagem. (Popular and thieves), a counterfeit coin. Also Birmingham.

We have just touched for a rattling stake of sugar (large stake of money) at *Brum*.—*Cornhill Magazine*.