

The youngest, who was a capless, shoeless little wretch, certainly not more than eight years old, had a "cigar-light" box tucked under his arm; another, a couple of years older, perhaps, carried the stump of a birch broom; while the third, who was the oldest and the hungriest, looking the most decently dressed, held in his hand a few local newspapers—dismally *dead stock*, considering the day and the hour.—*James Greenwood: Crackling's Dole.*

Dead swag (thieves), plunder that cannot be got rid of.

Dead to rights (police slang), employed by detectives when they have quite convicted a criminal, and he is positively guilty. "I've got him *dead to rights*." It is often employed in a more general sense to indicate certainty of success. It seems to have originated in America.

Dead 'un (thieves), a house unoccupied temporarily or altogether.

Me and the screwsman went to Gravesend and found a *dead 'un*, and we both went and turned it over.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

(Thieves and roughs), a half quartern loaf. (Turf, a horse that may be laid against as if he were dead; possibly because he is not going to run, certainly because he is not intended to win.

"Racing men," said Mr. Justice Field, in a memorable case some years ago, "evidently have a morality of their own." And it is certain that there are bookmakers or commission agents—call them what you will—whose honour and rectitude is unquestioned in their own circle, but who, so

far from shrinking from the idea of getting money out of a *dead 'un*, will jump at the first opportunity.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

(Theatrical), a super who plays for nothing. The mistakes that are made in crowds and full scenes is often accounted for by the fact that a super who has attended all rehearsals is shunted at a moment's notice to make room for the *dead 'un*, who sometimes pays the super master for the privilege of getting behind the scenes as well.

(Popular), to make *dead 'uns*, explained by quotation.

Man has a desire to peck a bit; consequently he must in a measure depend upon rogues in grain, the miller, and the baker; and this rule therefore teaches the art and mystery of making what are called *dead 'uns*; that is, to charge not only for what you deliver, but for what you do not.—*Diprose: Laugh and Learn.*

Dead-wood earnest (American), quite earnest.

No! oh, good licks, are you in real *dead-wood earnest*.—*Mark Twain: Tom Sawyer.*

Dead wrong 'un (common), a very dishonest fellow, a cheat.

"Don't you ever speak to that man," said the Immaculate One, "he is a *dead wrong 'un*. Plays cards, and has big pockets and little fingers. Cheats. Once went into the card room with six coups ready put up in his pocket."—*Sporting Times.*

Deal suit (popular), a deal coffin supplied by the parish.

Deaner (thieves), shilling.

I know what I will do; I will go to London Bridge rattler (railway) and take