

Demons (Australian), prison slang for police. "The *demons* put pincher on me," I was apprehended.

Dempstered (old cant), hung; from "dempster," the executioner, so called because it was his duty to repeat the sentence to the prisoner in open court. This was discontinued in 1773.

Denounce, to (American). In the West to pre-empt land, to announce a title to it.

You ain't got no right to come prospecting around now. I've *denounced* it all—it's all mine.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Dep (popular), a deputy. (Christ's Hospital), a Grecian.

Derby darlings, or D.D.'s (American), a term applied to women who wear Derby hats.

The late decidedly masculine tendency in fashionable female headgear has brought out a new type of girl of the period and coined a new phrase to describe her. The girls who promenade up and down Chestnut Street these fair autumn days, arrayed in men's stiff hats, are now called *Derby girls, or Derby darlings*. This is occasionally abbreviated into *D.D.* in such forms as "there goes a *D.D.*," or "she's a regular *D.D.*."—*Philadelphia Times.*

Derbyshire neck, a term for the goitrous neck, owing to its prevalence in Derbyshire.

Derrey (thieves), an eye-glass; hence the expression used by tailors to "take the *derrey*," to quiz, ridicule.

Derrick (old cant). In the days prior to the appearance in public life of the better known Jack Ketch, *Derrick* signified the hangman, from the supposed name of a then existing functionary. The word occurs in "The Bellman of London," an old play, published in 1616, the year of Shakspeare's death.

"He rides circuit with the devil, and *Derrick* must be his host, and Tyburn the inn at which he will alight."

To derrick, "a cant term for setting out on a small but not over-creditable enterprise. The act is said to be named from a Tyburn executioner" (Admiral Smyth).

Derwenter (Australian), a convict. So called from the River Derwent, in Tasmania, which, like New South Wales and West Australia, was originally a convict settlement. *Cf.* "Vandemonian" and "Sydney-sider."

Despatchers (gambling cheats), according to Hotten false dice with two sets of numbers, and, of course, no pips. So called because they bring the matter to a speedy issue.

Detrimentials (society), a very common term in society for those who are not well off, and therefore detrimental as husbands.

Deuce (popular), twopence. From the French.

Deux wins (old cant), twopence.