

What an awful *duffer* he is. I do not believe he hit a thing to-day; besides, he is so dangerous.—*Saturday Review*.

In this latter sense the word is connected with *daffe*, Anglo-Saxon, a fool; *daffam*, a silly person (Wright); *daff*, a coward; *daft*, of weak intellect. Anglo-Saxon *deaf*, "surdus, absurdus, stolidus," from *dufan*. *Deaf* is in most of its Indo-European forms synonymous with stupid or stolid. Gothic *daufs*, dull or foolish.

(Popular), spurious money.

I very quietly slipped four *duffers* among six good bobs, and accommodated her with the change she wanted. It came off all right, so I've four bob left for drinks; see!—*Bird's Freedom*.

(Nautical), a woman who assists smugglers.

**Duffer out, to** (Australian), mining slang. A reef is said to *duffer out* when the gold is nearly or quite exhausted.

He then reported to the shareholders that the lode had *duffered out*, and that it was useless to continue working.—*Advance Australia*.

**Dug-out** (American), a canoe hollowed out of the trunk of a tree. The term seems common throughout the New World, as the Rev. W. Cartwright in his "Autobiography" says, "If by chance we got a *dug-out* to cross in ourselves and swim our horses by, it was quite a treat."

Also a rough kind of structure built over an excavation.

The new house was at best but a modest little structure, but Mayne viewed the

placing of each shingle and the driving of each nail with profound satisfaction. In the sparsely settled neighbourhood, where *dug-outs* and "shacks" predominated, a "frame" house, even though small and unpretending, was a structure of no mean importance. When it became known that Jack Mayne intended to plaster the "front room" it was pretty thoroughly agreed that reckless extravagance characterised Mayne's house building.—*Sporting Time*.

**Duke Humphrey** (common), "to dine with *Duke Humphrey*," to go without dinner. Dr. Brewer, in his "Dictionary of Phrase and Fable," says:—"Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, son of Henry IV., was renowned for his hospitality. At his death it was reported that a monument would be erected to him in St. Paul's, but his body was interred at St. Albans. When the promenaders left for dinner, the poor stay-behinds who had no dinner used to say to the gay sparks who asked if they were going, that they would stay a little longer and look for the monument of the 'good duke.'" "Dining with the cross-legged knights" (the stone effigies of the Round Church) had the same signification. Hotten has the following explanation:—"Some visitors were inspecting the abbey where the remains of Humphrey Duke of Gloucester lie, and one of them was unfortunately shut in, and remained there *solus* while his companions were feasting at a neighbouring hostelry. He was afterwards said to have dined with *Duke Humphrey*, and the saying even-

Y