

the tone of a novel, a club, or a person. Now it is *atmosphere*. A city is said to have a peculiar *atmosphere* when its people and their customs seem peculiar to the observer. Such words are very convenient when people have nothing particular to say, and mean to say it impressively."

**Atomy** (popular), a small or deformed person. Varied sometimes to an "abortion."

**Atrāsh** (gypsy), afraid.

"An whenever the baval pudered he was *atrāsh* he'd pel a-lay pré the shingerballas o' the giro"—"And whenever the wind blew he was afraid he would fall down on the horns of the bull."—*The English Gypsies*.

**At that** (American), meaning something in addition to, an intensive. Said to have originated in Pennsylvania, and to be a translation of the German *dasu*. "She is beautiful and rich *at that*," "She is old and ugly *at that*." It is also used upon a variety of occasions, without reason or necessity.

"Now then, Mister, drinks all round, and cobblers *at that*."—*Notes on Canada*. He's got a scolding wife, and an ugly one *at that*.—*Bartlett*.

The Mississippi's a mighty big drink—and a muddy one *at that*.—*Idem*.

The practice with one-half of the New Yorkers, of moving on the first of May, is an awful custom, and foolish *at that*.—*Major Downing*.

In Australia one talks of dear *at that*, weak *at that*, &c., some such word as "rate" or "price" being understood.

So we'll drain the flowing bowl,

'Twill not jeopardise the soul,

For it's only tea and weak *at that*.

—*Keighly Goodchild: The Old Felt Hat*.

**Attic** (popular), the human head, to be "queer in the *attic*," to be intoxicated or cracked. A somewhat similar term in the French slang is "*grenier à sel*." The synonyms are, "knowledge-box, tibby, costard, nob, nut, chump, upper storey, crum-pet."

**Attleborough** (American), sham.

Sham jewellery, from the town of Attleborough, in Massachusetts, where much imitation or trashy jewellery is made.

**Attorney** (thieves). The term is applied to a cunning fellow, or at least one who passes himself off as such; clever in getting round people, or *turning* difficulties (*attorney*, French *à tourner*); a loafer who pretends to a full knowledge of the legal meshes in which the light-fingered gentry are occasionally involved. The *attorney* is always ready to give advice in these and other matters for a small consideration in money, and failing that, for a glass of any kind of "tippie" at the nearest "pub." This distant relation to the great family of "limbs of the law" hangs about the favourite resorts of other kinds of "practitioners," *i.e.*, thieves. He is considered as a shining light by some, as an impostor by others, but whatever the case may be, he distinguishes himself from the real *attorney* by the low rate of his charges.