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A DICTIONARY OF
FRENCH SLANG



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A DICTIONARY OF FRENCH SLANG

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PREFACE

THE little volume that gave birth to the present dictionary was called "a glossary." Increased proportions required a new and more ambitious name. This *Dictionary of French Slang* is indeed far more complete than its predecessor, for besides filling up many of the gaps in my original glossary I have endeavoured to keep pace with the ever-increasing growth of slang in the French of to-day.

This was by no means an easy task. Slang invades conversation and literature more and more boldly. It is not confined to novels by authors who depict the life of the Paris slums; moral and even religious plays like those of Grégoire Leclos¹ contain dialogue which must puzzle many an uninitiated French reader. Still more striking is it to hear words like *resquilleur* and *poire* in an official speech pronounced at a prize-giving by a member of the Institut, a Professor of the University of Paris.² Thus it appears that a dictionary of this type, which some years ago would have been proposed as an aid to the understanding of naturalistic novels, may be useful now to the reader of a religious play or the listener to an official speech.

The word 'slang' as used here should be taken in its widest meaning to include much that a philologist would hardly call slang at all—familiar or popular words, colloquialisms, childish expressions, corrupted forms. It was even thought advisable to find place for certain words of a semi-technical character for the simple reason that they have been neglected in current dictionaries (*e.g.*, *ninas*, *técéfiste*, etc.). The fact that an English reader might find it useful to have such words explained was deemed sufficient to justify their inclusion. In fact, no word or expression that was considered likely to puzzle an English reader has been intentionally omitted—with the exception of those that must be classed as grossly obscene.

As usually happens with regard to compilations of this kind, I am indebted to a number of persons for the improvement of my

¹ Cf. *Notre-Dame de la Mouise*, performed in 1931 at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées, and other plays by the same author, Paris, Éditions Spes.

² M. Gaston Julia at the Lycée Hoche, in July, 1934.



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work : to correspondents who sent me from England or America valuable hints, suggesting additions or more accurate renderings; to my colleagues G. Camerlynck and F. Mossé, who by their reviews of the former work have contributed to render the present one more correct or complete; to my friend Austin Gill, of Edinburgh University, an expert in French school slang, who is responsible for the better English rendering of several French expressions; to Victor Heuzé, who put at my disposal his practical knowledge of the *apache* vernacular. To all I have pleasure in offering my best thanks. And, as I cannot hope, even in spite of that help, that my book is without errors or deficiencies, I should be glad if the users of this dictionary would be kind enough to bring to my notice the mistakes or omissions they happen to detect.

O. L.

A

à, prep. Substituted for *de* in popular French as the mark of possession. *La fille à Pierre, la femme à mon ami, etc.* (Cp. the English 'secretary to,' etc.)

abatage, sb.m. Talking to, dressing down, wiggling. *Le patron m'a donné un fameux abatage*, the boss gave me a rare talking to.

abatis, sb.m.pl. (Lit. giblets.) Limbs. *Numéroter ses abatis*, lit. to number one's limbs (before or after a danger, to see if everything is all right). *Tu peux numéroter tes abatis!* (menace or warning) = you can take stock of your limbs, I am going to give you a rare thrashing, (or) there is going to be some danger, you're in for it.

abat-jour, sb.m. Colonial helmet.

abîmer. 1. *vb.tr.* To injure, spoil, etc. *Il s'est fait abîmer*, he got severely hit, wounded. (Cp. I'll spoil his beauty for him!)

2. *vb.intr.* To exaggerate. *Il abîme!* he piles it on, he's coming it strong. (Cp. ALLER FORT, CHARRIER.)

abouler. 1. *vb.tr.* To bring, fetch, P: bung. *Aboule ça ici!* bring that over here! *Aboule ton argent!* hand over your money! fork out! stump up!

2. *vb.pr.* To come. *Aboulez-vous ici*, come here. *Ils s'abouleront à midi*, they'll turn up, show up, at twelve.

aboyeur, sb.m. 1. Revolver. (Cp. barking-iron, barker.)

2. 75 mm. gun.

3. Man touting for customers at the doors of shows; barker.

4. N.C.O.

acabit, sb.m. Kind, nature, temperament. *Homme d'un bon acabit*, good-natured fellow. *Je n'ai jamais vu un imbécile de cet acabit*, I never came across such an idiot.

accidenté, e, p.p. Injured in an accident.

accordéon, sb.m. Extending telephone arm.

accoucher, vb.intr. To utter (with difficulty) what one has to say. *Allons, accouche!* well, now, out with it! cough it up! spit it out! *Il n'a jamais pu accoucher*, he couldn't for the life of him get out what he had to say.

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accroche-cœur, *sb.m.* Lock of hair smoothed down on the temples, much in fashion among bullies about 1875; kiss-curl, *U.S.* : spit-curl.

accrocher. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To pinch, scrounge.

(b) To pawn, put up the spout, *U.S.* : to hock. *J'ai accroché ma toquante*, I have popped my ticker.

2. *vb.pr.* *Se l'accrocher*, to go without it. *Tu peux toujours te l'accrocher!* don't you wish you may get it! you can whistle for it!

acheter, *vb.tr.* To make a fool of. *Vous ne voyez donc pas qu'il vous achète?* don't you see he is having you on, pulling your leg? (*Cp.* to be sold, what a sell!)

acrais, **acré**, *interj.* Look out! danger ahead! cave! *Acré, v'la les flics!* nix, here are the coppers!

acrobate, *sb.m.* Queer fellow, card. *Tu parles d'un acrobate!* what a queer bird!

activer, *vb.intr.* To be sharp, to make haste. *Activez!* get a move on! put some guts into it! hustle a bit! put some vim into it! *U.S.* : snap into it!

adieu, *sb.m.* *Dernier adieu*, concierges' corruption of *denier à Dieu*, a gratuity given to them by tenant hiring a flat. (*Cp.* God's penny.)

adjudète, *sb.m.* (= *adjudant*) French N.C.O., almost the same as regimental sergeant-major; not to be confused with the adjutant of the British Army.

affaire. 1. *sb.f.* (a) *Faire son affaire à quelqu'un*, to kill somebody, to do somebody in, to cook somebody's goose, settle somebody's hash.

(b) *De cette affaire-là*, accordingly, consequently (somewhat expletive). *Alors, de c't affaire-là, vous allez nous quitter?* so you're going to leave us, are you?

2. *sb.f.pl.* Menses, monthlies. *Elle a ses affaires*, her country cousins have come. (*Cp.* ANGLAIS, PEINTRES.)

3. *prep. phrase.* *Affaire de*, in order to. *Il a fait ça affaire de rire*, he did that just for a joke. (*Cp.* HISTOIRE 6.)

affigé, **e**, *sb.m.f.* Invalid, cripple.

affranchi, **e**, *adj.* Unscrupulous, knowing, up to snuff.

affranchir, *vb.tr.* (At cards) *Affranchir une carte*, to establish a card (by drawing the higher ones).



affutiau, *sb.m.* 1. Trinket, article of adornment, gewgaw. *Les jeunes filles aiment les affutiaux*, girls are fond of titivating. *Des affutiaux comme en aiment les jeunes paysannes*, just the sort of fal-lals peasant girls like.

2. Thing, gadget. *Je ne sais plus le nom de cet affutiau*, I don't remember the name of that gadget.

agoniser, *vb.tr.* To blackguard, to slang. *Je me suis fait agoniser*, I have been called all sorts of names; I have been properly slanged. (In correct parlance *agoniser* means 'to be dying.' The proper phrase is *agonir de sottises*.)

agrafer, *vb.tr.* 1. To lay hold of, scrounge, win. *Où as-tu agrafé ça?* where did you get hold of that? where did you wangle that?

2. To catch, arrest. *Il finira par se faire agraser*, he'll get nabbed in the long run.

3. To detain a reluctant listener. *Il m'a agrafé dans la rue*, he caught hold of me, button-holed me, in the street.

4. To scold, give a wiggling.

agrément, *sb.m.* *Avoir de l'agrément*, to enjoy oneself. Often used ironically. *Vous allez faire ça à pied? Eh bien, je vous souhaite de l'agrément!* you're going to foot it? Well, you've got a treat in store, something in front of you; I hope you'll enjoy it.

agricher, *vb.tr.* To grip, clutch. *Je l'ai agriché par un abatis*, I grabbed him by the arm.

aguicher, *vb.tr.* To allure, entice (esp. by lascivious glance). *Si tu ne l'avais pas aguiché il t'aurait laissée tranquille*, if you had not given him the glad eye he would have left you alone.

aigrette, *sb.f.* *Avoir son aigrette*, to be drunk, to be half-seas-over, to be three sheets in the wind. (Cp. CASQUE, COCARDE, PANACHE, PLUMET, POMPON.)

aile, *sb.f.* 1. Arm. (Cp. AILERON.)

2. (Motoring) *Prendre un virage sur l'aile*, to take a corner on two wheels.

aileron, *sb.m.* Arm. (Cp. ABATIS.)

air, *sb.m.* (Often used in the feminine in popular French. *L'air est fraîche, bonne*.)

1. *En jouer un air*, to go off, to hop it. *Jouer la fille de l'air*, *se donner de l'air*, to decamp.

2. *Fiche (ficher, flanquer, foutre) en l'air*, to get rid of, to

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abandon in disgust. *Flanque-le en l'air s'il n'est bon à rien*, chuck it away if it is good for nothing.

ajète. Popular pronunciation of *achète* (*j'*), I buy.

alboche, *sb.m.* and *adj.* German. (The word *boche* is merely an abbreviation of *alboche*.)

aligner, *vb.pr.* *Il peut s'aligner!* he may try to do it! (ironical). (*Lit.* he may come to the scratch.)

allant. 1. *sb.m.* Spirit, dash, U.S.: pep. *Un officier qui a de l'allant*, an officer with plenty of go.

2. *adj.* With plenty of go, spirited.

aller, *vb.intr.* 1. To please. *Ça, ça me va!* that suits me down to the ground, that's the very thing for me. (*Cp.* *ça me botte*.)

2. *Aller avec (une femme)*, to go with (a woman).

3. *Aller fort*, to exaggerate. *Il y va un peu fort*, he's coming it a bit strong.

4. *Y aller de*, to be willing to do, give, etc. (implies slight reluctance). *Il faudra que j'y aille de mes cent sous*, I'll have to fork out five francs. *Il y est allé de son petit discours*, he consented at last to deliver a little speech.

allonger. 1. *vb.tr.* To give, hand over. *J'ai allongé l'argent*, I planked down the money. *Je lui allongerai un coup de poing sur l'œil*, I'll land him, fetch him, one in the eye.

2. *vb.pr.* (a) To fall full length. *Je me suis allongé sur le plancher*, I came a cropper.

(b) To stand oneself, treat oneself to. *Je m'allongerai un bon dîner*, I shall treat myself to a good dinner. (*Cp.* *s'appuyer*.)

(c) To have to do, stand. *Il a fallu m'allonger dix kilomètres de plus*, I had to walk another ten kilometres.

allumage, *sb.m.* *Mettre de l'avance à l'allumage*, U.S.: to step on the gas, to step on it. (Properly: to advance the spark.)

allumé, e, *adj.* and *p.p.* 1. Warmed up by drink, elevated, squiffy.

2. Amorously excited.

allumer. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To pay, dub up. (*Cp.* *éclairer*.)

(b) To look at, to watch, U.S.: to lamp. *Dis donc, le voilà, allume, allume!* I say, he is coming, just have a look! *Je l'ai allumé pendant deux heures*, I watched him for two hours.

(c) To incite to lust, allure, entice.



(d) *Allume ta pipe à la pompe!* stock joke without any definite meaning: I don't think!

2. *vb.intr.* To make haste. *Allume!* look sharp! get a move on!

allumeur, euse, sb.m.f. 1. One who allures expected customers, gamblers, etc.; a tout, scout.

2. *f.* A woman who manages to excite sexual desires, to 'ginger' men up.

alphonse, sb.m. Pimp. From the name of a character in a Comedy by Alexandre Dumas, *Monsieur Alphonse* (1873). (*Cp.* German *Louis*.) (*Cp.* BARBEAU, DOS, MAQUEREAU, MARLOU.)

amant de cœur, sb.m. Fancy man (as opposed to paying lover).

amarrer, vb.tr. To catch, take hold of. *Je vais tâcher de l'amarrer et de le faire parler*, I'll try to get hold of him and make him talk.

amener. 1. *vb.tr.* *Amène ta viande!* come along! (*Lit.* bring along your meat.)

2. *vb.pr.* *Ils s'amèneront vers cinq heures*, they will turn up at about five.

amer, ère, adj. *L'avoir amère*, to be bitterly disappointed.

américain, e, adj. *Avoir l'œil américain*, to be able to find out quickly what one needs. (*Cp.* keep your eyes skinned.)

amex, sb.m.pl. American soldiers (*Am(ericain) Ex(peditionary Force)*).

ami, e, sb.m.f. Lover, mistress. (For several years past newspapers have dropped the words *amant* and *maîtresse*, using instead *ami*, *amie*.)

aminche, sb.m. (= *ami*) Friend, chum, pal.

amochage, sb.m. Act of AMOCHER. *Il l'a à moitié tué, tu parles d'un amochage!* he nearly killed him, talk of spoiling his beauty for him! what a bashing!

amocher. 1. *vb.tr.* To spoil, demolish, wound, etc. *Le village a été salement amoché par le bombardement*, the village was badly knocked about by the bombardment. *Tu vas te faire amocher si tu vas là-bas*, you will get yourself bashed up if you go over there. *Je vais l'amocher*, I'll spoil his beauty for him.

2. *vb.pr.* To become weak, inefficient, ugly.

amochir, s', vb.pr. To grow ugly, wobbly, old.

amour, *sb.m.* (Often fem. in pop. French.) 1. *Amour d'enfant, de chien, de chapeau, etc.*, a duck, a darling, an angel, of a child, a dog, a hat, etc. *Passe-moi une cigarette, tu seras un amour*, give me a cigarette, there's a love, an angel; be a lamb and pass me a cigarette.

2. *Y a plus d'amour?* stock phrase, usually interrogative, of vague meaning: are not things going nicely? are you down-hearted?

3. *Faire l'amour*, to have sexual intercourse. (Never to be translated by 'to make love,' the French expression corresponding to which is *faire la cour*.)

amuser, *s'*, *vb.pr.* *Les enfants s'amuse*nt, stock gibe at a person fiddling with something. (*Cp.* give the baby a rattle, small things amuse small minds.)

anarcho, *sb.m.* Anarchist.

Anastasie, *proper name*. The censorship, "Dora."

Anatole, *proper name*. *Ça colle, Anatole?* how goes it, old cock? (Nonsense rhyming stock phrase.)

andouille, *sb.f. and adj.* (*Lit.* chitterlings.) Silly, clumsy fellow, flat, dud, juggins, mug, etc. *C'est une andouille*, he is good for nothing, he is a regular jackass. *Ferme ça, espèce d'andouille!* shut up, you fool! (*Cp.* BALLOT, BEC-DE-MOULE, BELLURE, BILLE, BÛCHE, CON, CORNICHON, CROÛTE, CROÛTON, CRUCHE, DEMI-SEL, EMPAILLÉ, EMPOTÉ, FOURNEAU, GOURDE, MOULE, NAVET, NIGUEDOUILLE, NOUILLE, PANOUILLE, PAQUET, PATATE, PIED, POCHETÉE, POIRE, POIREAU.)

ange, *sb.m.* *Faiseuse d'anges*. 1. A woman who delivers women prematurely by criminal practices; abortionist; angel-maker.

2. Baby farmer.

anglais. 1. *adj.* *Bonbon anglais*, acid drop.

2. *sb.m.pl.* Menses. *Elle a ses anglais*, she has her menses, the reds. *Les anglais ont débarqué*, she has the decorators in. (*Cp.* *avoir les peintres*.)

angliche, *sb. and adj.* Popular deformation of 'English.' *Les angliches*, the English people.

animal, *sb.m.* Term of (usually playful) abuse. *Quelle veine il a cet animal!* what a lucky blighter he is!

anis, *sb.m.* *De l'anis!* I don't like this! I am not having any! not a bit of it!



anse, *sb.f.* *Faire sauter l'anse du panier*, (of a servant) to get pickings.

Antoine, *proper name.* *Le Faubourg Antoine* (in Paris), generally used in popular French for *le Faubourg Saint-Antoine*.

apache, *sb.m.* and *adj.* Ruffian, desperate character. *Il s'est fait tuer par un apache*, he was killed by a hooligan.

apaiser, *vb.tr.* To kill, murder, to give the quietus to. (*Lit.* to make quiet. *Cp.* Latin *allevare*, to kill.)

apé, apéro, *sb.m.* (= *apéritif*) Drink taken before meals to give an appetite, an appetizer. *Payer l'apéro*, to stand someone an appetizer, a bitters.

aplatir, *vb.tr.* To make a crushing retort to; to astound. *Cet argument-là l'a aplati*, that argument crushed him, flattened him out. *J'ai été aplati quand j'ai vu ça*, when I saw it I was flabbergasted, struck all of a heap, you could have knocked me down with a feather.

appels, *sb.m.pl.* *Faire des appels*, to make amorous overtures, to give the glad eye. (*Cp.* *faire du genou, de l'œil, du pied, du rentre-dedans*.)

apprenti, *sb.m.* Novice, green-horn. *Me prends-tu pour un apprenti?* do you see any green in my eye? *Je ne suis plus un apprenti*, I've cut my eye-teeth.

appuyer, s', *vb.tr.* 1. To treat oneself to. *Je me suis appuyé un joli petit voyage*, I stood myself a nice little trip.

2. To have to do, undergo, etc. *Il a fallu m'appuyer cette corvée-là*, I had to take on that piece of drudgery.

après, *prep.* 1. Substituted in popular French for various other prepositions, as in the following sentences, *attendre après quelqu'un*, to wait for somebody; *monter après un arbre*, to climb up a tree; *demande après quelqu'un*, to ask for somebody.

2. Used like an English postposition. *Cours-lui après*, run after him. *On lui a couru après*, he was run after.

3. *Et puis après?* expresses defiance. *Oui, je le lui ai dit, et puis après?* yes, I told him so, and what if I did? yes, I did tell him, what about it? and supposing I did?

arabe, *adj.* *Fourbi arabe*, a very complicated state of affairs.

Combinaisons (combines) arabes, schemes that do not come off.

araignée, *sb.f.* 1. *Avoir une araignée dans le plafond*, to be crazy, to have a slate off, a screw or a tile loose, to be off one's chump. (*Cp.* to have a bee in one's bonnet, to have bats in the belfry.)

2. *Faire des pattes d'araignée*, to caress lightly with the tips of the fingers all over the body to excite sexual desire.

aramon, *sb.m.* Red wine (esp. of inferior kind); wine in general.

arbalète, *sb.f.* Rifle. (*Lit.* cross-bow.)

arbi, *sb.m.* = **arbico**.

arbico(t), *sb.m.* Arab.

arbre, *sb.m.* *Faire monter à l'arbre*, to mystify, to kid. (*Cp.* *monter à l'échelle*.)

arche, *sb.f.* 1. Trick (at cards). *Prendre l'arche*, to make, take, a trick.

2. *Se fendre l'arche*, to be bored, to fret.

archicube, *sb.m.* Old student of the *École Normale Supérieure*, and of the *École Centrale*. (*Cp.* **CARRÉ**.)

ardente, *sb.f.* Lamp, glim.

ardoise, *sb.f.* 1. *Avoir une ardoise*, to be given credit in a public-house, to be able to get drinks on tick, to chalk up.

2. *Prendre une ardoise*, to make water in a street urinal. (From the walls being lined with slate.)

argousin, *sb.m.* Policeman, cop, tec, slop.

aria, *sb.f.* Trouble, bother, fix, fuss. *Tu parles d'un aria!* something like a bother! it's no end of trouble, I am in a pretty fix. *Quel aria!* here's a go! what a how d'ye do!

aristo, *sb.m.* and *adj.* For aristocrate. *Les aristos*, the nobbs, swells, toffs.

arlequin, *sb.m.* A dish consisting of a mixture of scraps of meat sold in special shops to beggars and cadgers. (From a harlequin's variegated tights.)

arme, *sb.f.* *Passer l'arme à gauche*, to die, to go west, to slip one's cable, to lay down one's knife and fork, to kick the bucket. (*Cp.* **BILLARD**, **BOULANGER**, **CANNE**, **CHIQUE** 3, **MALLE** 2, **NEUD** 2, **ŒIL** 5, **PIPE**, **PISSENLITS**, **TAUPES**.)

armoire à glace, *sb.f.* Soldier's haversack, knapsack, pack.

arpette, *sb.f.* Little girl employed to go on errands at a dress-maker's, milliner's, or the like.

arpion, *sb.m.* Foot, beetle-crusher, trotter, *U.S.*: dog, puppy.

arquepincer, *vb.tr.* To catch, collar, grab. *Se faire arquepincer*, to get nabbed.

arranger, *vb.tr.* 1. To spoil, demolish, wound, etc. *Vous voilà*

bien arrangé! you do look a sight! *Vous avez bien arrangé ma montre!* you've made a nice mess of my watch! *Il s'est fait salement arranger!* he's got his! he got a rare dressing down!

2. To cheat. *C'est un magasin où on se fait arranger*, it is a shop where one gets cheated, done. (They sell trash, or overcharge.)

arrivé, e, *adj.* *Être arrivé*, to be true, of consequence, interest, etc. *Il étudie l'occultisme et il croit que c'est arrivé*, he studies occultism, and believes there is something in it. *Depuis qu'il est député il croit que c'est arrivé*, since he became an M.P. he thinks he is absolutely it. (More generally) *Il croit que c'est arrivé*, he is an artless, gullible fellow.

arrosage, *sb.m.* Act of ARROSER.

arroser, *vb.tr.* 1. To stand drinks to celebrate some happy event. *Arroser ses galons*, to wet one's stripes. *C'est moi arroser*, it's my call, my round; I'm standing this (one), this is my shout.

2. To bribe. *Si vous voulez être admis, il faudra les arroser*, if you want to be admitted, you'll have to square them.

arsouille, *sb.m.* Cad, blackguard.

Arthur, *proper name.* *Tu l'as dur Arthur*, rhyming stock phrase without a definite meaning.

arti, *sb.f.* (= *artillerie*) Artillery.

artichaut, *sb.m.* 1. Purse, pocket-book.

2. *Avoir un cœur d'artichaut*, to be an unfaithful lover (or mistress) whose heart, like the leaves of an artichoke, may be plucked by anybody.

artiflo(t), *sb.m.* (= *artilleur*) Artilleryman.

artiste, *sb.m.f.* Person, fellow (slightly contemptuous). *Il me barbe cet artiste-là*, that beggar gets on my nerves.

artisse. Popular pronunciation of *artiste*.

artou, *sb.m.* Foot, trotter.

as, *sb.m.* (*Lit. ace.*) 1. First-rate man, crack, clipper, blood, one-er, ripper, ace. *C'est un as*, he is A1. (Denotes superiority of any kind; first applied to first-class airmen during the war; *cp.* a regular trump.)

2. Table no. 1 in coffee-house or restaurant. *Un bock à l'as!* head-waiter's call to have a glass of beer served to customer sitting at table no. 1.

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3. *Être aux as* (or *à l'as*), to have plenty of money, to be flush.

4. *Aller à l'as*, to take a fall, to come a cropper.

5. *Bouffer à l'as*, not to eat at all.

6. *Passer quelque chose à l'as*, to juggle something away. (Lit. and fig.)

7. *Veiller à l'as*, to be careful, to be on the look-out.

as de carreau, *sb.m.* (Lit. ace of diamonds.) Soldier's haver-sack. (From the shape.)

as de pique, *sb.m.* (Lit. ace of spades.) 1. Anus.

2. *Être foutu, fichu, comme l'as de pique*, (of a person) to be awkwardly dressed, got up like a guy, ill-shaped; (of a job) to be bungled, messed up.

asperge, *sb.f.* Tall and thin person, regular lamp-post.

asphyxier, *vb.tr.* To steal, collar, bone. *On m'a asphyxié mon tabac*, somebody's bagged, scrounged, my tobacco. (Cp. BARBOTER, SE CASSER LE POIGNET SUR, CHIPER, CHOPER, EFFAROUCHER, ÉTOUFFER, FABRIQUER, FAIRE, FAUCHER, GROUPER, NETTOYER, PAUMER, POISSER, RABIOTER.)

assassiner, *vb.tr.* To spoil, smash, mess up. *Si vous essayez de réparer votre montre vous-même, vous allez l'assassiner*, if you try to repair your watch yourself, you will spoil it, make a mess of it.

assabouir, *vb.tr.* 1. To stun with blows. *Vous vous ferez assabouir dans ce quartier-là*, you'll get downed if you go in that district.

2. To crush. *Ça l'a assabouï, quand il l'a appris*, when he learnt that he was struck all of a heap, it knocked him (silly).

asseoir, 1. *vb.tr.* To make a crushing retort to. *Je l'ai assis*, I've crushed him, I sat on him properly.

2. *vb. pr.* (a) *S'asseoir sur quelque chose*, not to care for something. *La loi, j'm'assieds dessus!* I don't care a damn for the law.

(b) *Va t'asseoir!* don't bother me, go to pot!

assiette, *sb.f.* *Ne pas se sentir dans son assiette*, to feel out of sorts, queer.

assir. A popular form of *asseoir*.

assommoir, *sb.m.* Low pub.

asthme, *adj.m.f.* (= *asthmatique*) *Il est asthme*, he is asthmatic.



asticot, *sb.m.* 1. *Avoir un asticot dans la noisette*, to be soft in the brains, in the filbert. (*Cp.* ARAIGNÉE.)

2. Man, individual. (No precise meaning, though rather pejorative.)

asticoter, *vb.tr.* To tease, worry. *Il est toujours à m'asticoter*, he is always teasing, ragging, me.

astronomique, *adj.* Extremely big, important of its kind. *On pouvait en avoir, mais c'était à des prix astronomiques*, you could get it, but they charged enormously for it. (From astronomical distances being out of proportion with our terrestrial ones.)

atout, *sb.m.* 1. Blow, wound. *J'ai reçu un rude atout sur le crâne*, I got a nasty one on the head. *Il a reçu plus d'un atout à la guerre*, he was outed more than once during the war. *Empoche ça, et atout, atout, atout!* take that, and that, and that!

2. Strength. *Il n'a pas d'atout*, he is not strong enough, he's not got the nerve.

attaque, d', *adj.* 1. Brave, strong. *C'est un type qui est d'attaque*, he is a plucky chap, he is game.

2. (Of a thing) Big or good of its kind. *Un froid d'attaque*, devilish cold weather.

attaquer, *vb.intr.* (At cards) To lead. *Attaquer dans sa longue*, to lead from one's long suit.

attiger. 1. (a) *vb.tr.* To spoil, damage, wound. *Il se fera attiger s'il continue*, he will get hit, wounded, if he goes on. *Il s'est fait salement attiger par la grippe*, he's got a nasty dose of 'flu.

(b) *vb.intr.* To get wounded, to cop it.

2. *vb.tr.* and *intr.* To exaggerate. *Il attige*, he is exaggerating, coming it strong. *N'attigez donc pas!* (often *la cabane* is added) draw it mild! *Je crois qu'il m'attige*, I think he is pulling my leg. *Sans attiger*, without joking, honest Injun.

attrapade, *sb.f.* Quarrel, bickering.

attrape, *sb.f.* Catch, booby-trap. *Attrape-nigaud*, clap-trap, hum-bug.

attraper, *vb.tr.* 1. To understand. *Attraper le truc*, to get the hang of it.

2. To scold. *Vous vous ferez attraper si vous ne travaillez pas*, if you don't work you'll get into a row, you'll catch it. *Il m'a rudement attrapé*, he gave it me hot and strong.

3. To cheat, do. *Ils ne m'attraperont pas deux fois!* they shan't catch me twice!

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aubert, aubert, sb.m. Money, boodle, brass, cash, chink, chips, dibs, oof, rhino, spondulicks, tin. (*Cp.* BRAISE, GALETTE, MONACOS, OSEILLE, PÉPETTES, PÈSE, PICAILLONS, POGNON, QUBUS.)

Auguste, proper name. *Comme de juste Auguste!* rhyming stock phrase expressing agreement: quite so! right you are! that's the idea! that's right! right oh!

autant, adv. Substituted for *aussi* in popular French. *Il est autant fort comme son père*, he is as strong as his father.

autor, d', adv. (= *d'autorité*) Without hesitation, of one's own accord, without asking for advice. *S'il ne m'en parle pas, je le ferai d'autor*, if he doesn't talk to me about it, I'll do it on my own, off my own bat. (From the expression *jouer d'autorité* at the game of *écarté* where one can play with the hand as originally dealt (*d'autorité*), or ask for new cards.)

Auverpin, sb.m. (= *Auvergnat*) A native of Auvergne. *Il a tout de l'Auverpin*, what a stingy fellow!

auxi, sb.m. (= *auxiliaire*) Soldier unfit for active service employed in offices, A.S.C., etc.

avachi, e, adj. Out of shape, flabby (things and persons).

avachir. 1. vb.tr. To put out of shape, to weaken, to make flabby.

2. *vb.pr.* To become flabby.

avachissement, sb.m. Putting out of shape, flabbiness.

avalier, vb.tr. 1. (a) *Avoir avalé sa langue*, to remain speechless.
 (b) *Avale ta langue!* don't talk! shut up! mum's the word!
 (c) *Avaler sa langue*, to die.

2. To believe. *Il avale toutes les bourdes qu'on lui raconte*, he'll swallow any humbug you tell him.

avantages, sb.m.pl. Woman's breasts.

avant-scènes, sb.f.pl. Woman's breasts. (*Lit.* stage-boxes; because swelling out and jutting forth like stage-boxes.)

avaro, sb.m. (= *avarie*) Damage. *Mon moteur a eu un avaro*, my motor got damaged.

avec, prep. 1. Used like an English postposition. *J'ai voyagé, joué, avec*, I have travelled, played, with him, her, etc.

2. *Avec ça qu'il est si malin!* he's not so clever as all that.
Avec ça que vous étiez rassuré! as if you hadn't the wind up!

avoir, vb.tr. 1. To take in, to do in. *Cette fois ils m'ont eu*, this

time I've been deceived, they had the better of me, I've been had, I've been done brown.

2. To beat, vanquish. *On les aura, t'en fais pas!* don't you worry, we'll lick them! *U.S.:* we'll get them! we shall have them yet! we'll down them yet!

3. Convince. *Je n'ai pas pu l'avoir*, I could never talk him over (round).

4. *En avoir*, variable meaning according to context. *Il en a*, may mean he's got cheek, pluck, money, etc.

azor, *sb.m.* 1. Haversack. (*Cp.* Charlie.)

2. Revolver. (*Cp.* ABOYEUR, barker; *Azor* is a dog's name.)

aztèque, *sb.m.* Dwarfed, feeble, misshapen creature, a shrimp of a man.

B

baba, *adj.* Surprised, astonished, astounded. *Il a été baba quand il a appris ça*, he was flabbergasted when he heard of it. *J'en suis baba*, I am struck all of a heap.

babafier, *vb.tr.* To make BABA, to flabbergast.

babatement, *sb.m.* Great surprise, state of one who is BABA.

babille, *sb.f.* = BABILLARDE.

babillard, *sb.m.* Letter, paper.

babillarde, *sb.f.* Letter.

babouines, *sb.f.pl.* (= *babine*) Chops. *C'est un plat exquis, vous vous en lécherez les babouines*, it's a capital dish, you'll simply love it, it will make you lick your lips.

bac, *sb.m.* = BACHOT.

bac(c)antes, *sb.f.pl.* Moustaches.

bacchanal, *sb.m.* Great noise, tumult, disturbance. *Ils en ont fait un bacchanal hier soir!* what a shindy, rumpus, they made, what a row they kicked up, last night! (*Cp.* BAROUF, BOUCAN, BOUSIN, CHABANAIS, CHAHUT, CHAMBARD, MUSIQUE, POTIN, RAFFUT.)

bâche, *sb.f.* 1. Sheet. *Se mettre dans les bâches*, to get between the sheets.

2. Clap.

bâcher, *se, vp.pr.* To go to bed, to get between the sheets.

bachot, *sb.m.* (= *baccalauréat*) An examination corresponding

not to the English B.A. but to the School Certificate Examination. *Boîte, four, à bachot*, special school where they cram students for the *baccalauréat*.

bachoter, 1. *vb.tr.* To prepare a pupil rapidly for an exam (esp. the *bachot*), to coach, to cram.

2. *vb.intr.* To grind for an exam, to cram.

badaf, *sb.m.* (= *bat d'af*, *bataillon d'Afrique*) 1. Soldier from an African regiment.

2. The regiment itself.

baderne, *sb.f.* Old crock, old fogey, buffer. (Esp. said of an old retired officer, a dug-out.)

badigoinces, *sb.f.* Lips, chops, cheeks. *Se coller quelque chose dans les badigoinces*, to eat, to feed, to get some grub.

baffe, *sb.f.* = **BÂFRE** 1.

bafouille, *sb.f.* (From *bafouiller*, to speak incoherently, to splutter.) Letter, missive.

bâfre, *sb.f.* 1. Blow, slap in the face. *Flanque-lui une bâfre!* give him a warmer!

2. Tuck in, blow out. (See **BÂFRER**.)

bâfrer, 1. *vb.tr.* To eat greedily, gulp down.

2. *vb.intr.* To gorge oneself, to stuff and swill.

bâfreur, *euse*, *sb.m.f.* Greedy-guts.

bagatelle, *sb.f.* (Lit. trifle.) *Il ne pense qu'à la bagatelle*, he thinks of nothing but sexual indulgence.

bagnole, *sb.f.* Carriage, horse-box, motor-car (esp. of poor description), bone-shaker, old bus, shandrydan.

bagot, *sb.m.* Luggage. *Faire des bagots*, to carry, handle, luggage.

bagoter, *vb.intr.* 1. To walk, to gad about. *Il est toujours à bagoter par là*, he is always knocking about that way.

2. To get on. *Comment vont vos affaires?*—*Ça bagote*, how's business?—Not so bad.

3. To drudge, toil. *Il va falloir bagoter maintenant*, now we'll have to roll up our sleeves.

bagotier, *sb.m.* 1. Porter.

2. Cab-runner, cab-tout.

bagou, **bagout**, *sb.m.* *Avoir du bagou*, to have the gift of the gab.

bagouse, *sb.f.* (= *bague*) Finger-ring. (Cp. **PARTOUSE**, **PERLOUSE**.)

baguenaude, *sb.f.* Pocket.

baguenauder, *vb.intr.* and *pr.* To fiddle-faddle, to mooch about, to go about aimlessly. *Il n'a rien à faire qu'à se baguenauder toute la journée*, he has nothing to do but to loaf around all the day.

baguettes, *sb.pl.* Legs, drumsticks, stumps.

1. *Mettre les baguettes*, to hop it. (*Cp.* BOUTS DE BOIS, VOILE.)
2. *Avoir les baguettes*, to funk. (*Lit.* to be ready to hop it.

The use of *avoir* seems to be derived from the expression *avoir les foies*.) (*Cp.* GROLLE.)

bahut, *sb.m.* 1. School, *lycée*.

2. *Saint-Cyr* School.

3. Taxi.

bahuté, *adj.* and *p.p.* 1. (Of articles of uniform, at the *École Polytechnique* and *Saint-Cyr*) Of a fancy shape or cut.

2. (Of a person) *Un type bahuté*, a clever fellow, a cute one.

bahuter, *vb.tr.* (*École Polytechnique* and *Saint-Cyr*.)

1. To give any article of uniform a shape in keeping with the traditional standard of elegance in the school, by doing away with its new and somewhat stiff appearance. *Bahuter un képi*, to give to its crown and peak special folds and creases supposed to impart to the bearer of the cap the chic of a senior cadet of the school.

2. To upset by ragging. *Bahuter une chambre*, to turn everything upside down in a room.

3. (Of persons) To rag.

bail, *sb.m.* A long period of time. (*Lit.* a lease.) *Il y a un bail qu'on ne t'a pas vu*, I haven't seen you for ages.

bain, *sb.m.* *Envoyer quelqu'un au bain*, to send somebody to the right about.

bain de pieds, *sb.m.* 1. *Prendre un bain de pieds*, to be conveyed to a penal colony.

2. Overflow of coffee into the saucer.

baiser, *vb.tr.* 1. To have sexual intercourse. (The popular meaning has practically crowded out the classic acceptance 'to kiss,' except in such expressions as *baiser sur les lèvres*, *baiser au front*.)

2. To steal, pinch. *On m'a baisé mon tabac*, somebody's sneaked my baccy. (*Cp.* ASPHYXIER.)

3. To apprehend, catch. *Il s'est fait baisé*, he's got nabbed.

4. To do. *J'ai été baisé*, I was done brown.

bal, *sb.m.* 1. Compulsory walk of punished soldiers round the

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barracks yard. *Faire le bal*, to be subjected to that punishment. Sometimes capital punishment in the army.

2. *Donner le bal à quelqu'un*, to give somebody a good talking to.

balade, *sb.f.* Stroll, walk. *Faire une balade*, to go out for a walk, stroll, excursion, etc.

balader. 1. *vb.tr.* To take out for a walk.

2. *vb.pr.* *Se balader*, to take a walk, a stroll, to knock about, to mooch round. *Envoyer balader*, to send to the right about, U.S.: to give someone the air.

baladeur, *euse*. 1. *sb.m.f.* One who is fond of going out for strolls.

2. *adj.* *Il est d'humeur baladeuse*, he is fond of knocking about.

balai, *sb.m.* *Peau de balle et balai de crin*, absolutely nothing.

balancé, *e*, *adj.* 1. *Un garçon bien balancé*, a strongly built lad, a well-set-up fellow. *Une mère bien balancée*, a well-set-up wench. *Mal balancé*, ill-shaped.

2. (Of things) *Ça c'est balancé*, that's topping, A1.

balancer. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To cast off, to get rid of. *Balance-le si tu n'en veux plus*, chuck it away if you don't want it any more. *Il se fera balancer s'il ne travaille pas*, they'll kick him out, he'll get the sack, if he does not work.

(b) To throw. *Ils nous ont balancé des pierres*, they slung stones at us.

2. *vb.pr.* *Je m'en balance*, I don't care a damn.

balançoire, *sb.f.* 1. Humbug, nonsense, rubbish. *Tout ça c'est de la balançoire, des balançoires*, that's all humbug, rot, tripe.

2. *Envoyer à la balançoire*, to send to the right about.

balandrin, *sb.m.* A pedlar's pack.

balanstiquer, *vb.tr.* Fanciful deformation from **BALANCER** 1.

balcon, *sb.m.* *Il y a du monde au balcon*, stock phrase meaning that a woman has a big bust. (Cp. **AVANT-SCÈNES**, **BOSSOIRS**.)

baleine, *sb.f.* *Se tordre, rigoler, comme une baleine*, to split one's sides with laughter. *Gueuler comme une baleine*, to kick up a hullabaloo.

balle, *sb.f.* 1. Franc. *Ca vaut 10, 15, 20, balles*, it costs 10, 15, 20, francs. (Not used for less than 10.)

2. Face, phiz, mug. *Une bonne balle, une drôle de balle*, a genial face, a funny phiz. (Lit. ball. Cp. 'dial,' expressing

roundness. Never a pejorative. One does not say *une sale balle* but *une sale bobine*, *binette*, etc.) (*Cp.* BINETTE, BOBINE, BOUGIE, BOUILLOTTE, BOUSSOLE, FIOLE, POIRE, TERRINE, THÉ-
 IÈRE, TOMATE, TROMBINE.)

3. *Trou de balle*, anus. *C'est un vieux trou de balle*, he is an old fool.

4. *Peau de balle*, nothing at all. *Ça lui rapportera peau de balle (et balai de crin)*, he'll get (sweet) damn all out of it.

5. *Raide comme balle*, without hesitation, roughly, sharply. *Je lui répondrai ça raide comme balle*, I'll give him that answer straight out, on the nail. *Il est parti raide comme balle*, he was off like a shot.

6. *Faire la balle*, to be convenient. *Ça fait ma balle*, it's just the thing for me; U.S.: O.K. for me. *Ça ne fait pas ma balle*, it doesn't suit my book.

baller, *vb.tr.* *Envoyer baller quelqu'un*, to send somebody to the right about, to tell someone to go to Jericho. (*Baller*, 'to dance,' belonged formerly to correct speech.)

ballon, *sb.m.* 1. Posterior, backside. *Se faire enlever le ballon*, (*lit.* to get one's posterior kicked) to be thrashed, to get a good talking to.

2. Prison, imprisonment. *Il a fait du ballon*, he's done time. *Il sort du ballon*, he's just out of prison.

3. Glass of round shape in which beer is served. *Garçon, un ballon (blonde, brune)*, waiter, a glass of beer (bitter, mild). If *un ballon* is not specified, and *un quart* be ordered, the beer will be served in a glass mug.

ballot, *sb.m.* (*Lit.* bale.) Fool, duffer, awkward fellow, fat-head. *Au bout du quai les ballots!* interjectory stock phrase expressing contempt. (*Lit.* get away, you bales, to the end of the platform with your like.) (*Cp.* ANDOUILLE.)

balochard, *sb.m.* One who has a slouching gait, hence: without energy, lazy, careless.

balocher, *vb.intr.* 1. To go about aimlessly, especially with a slouching gait, to mooch about.

2. To be tossed about in the air.

balthazar, *sb.m.* Sumptuous meal. *J'ai fait un vrai balthazar*, I had no end of a spread, a slap-up dinner, a regular tuck in, a blow out.

baluchon, *sb.m.* Bundle (*esp.* of clothes and odds and ends in a handkerchief). *Faire son baluchon*, to pack up, to get ready.

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bamban, *sb.m.* Nickname for a lame person, dot and carry one.

bambochade, *sb.f.* Little spree.

bamboche, *sb.f.* Fast life, lively frolic, spree. *Faire la bamboche*, to be fast, to see life. (*Cp.* BOMBE, BRINGUE, NOCE, NOUBA.)

bambocher, *vb.intr.* To lead a fast life, to run wild, to be on the spree. *Il aime bien bambocher*, he's fond of a bit of a spree.

bambocheur, *euse, sb.m.f.* One who leads a fast life, a gay dog, a rip.

bambou, *sb.m.* *Avoir le coup de bambou*, (a) to get sunstroke; (b) to turn crazy, to go off one's head. (*Esp.* used by colonials.)

bamboula, *sb.m.* 1. Senegalese soldier.

2. Any negro, darky.

banal, *e, adj.* *Ça n'est pas banal!* that's too bad! (Without any suggestion of *banalité* (quality of being common, trivial, vulgar). For instance, one will exclaim *ça n'est pas banal!* if one is told by a friend that he was frightfully overcharged in a shop, though the fact in itself is perfectly *banal* in the correct acceptance of the word.)

banban, *sb.m.* = BAMBAN.

bancal, *sb.m.* Cavalry sword.

bande, *sb.f.* 1. *Bande d'idiot!* *bande de salauds!* you idiots! you rotters! (May be addressed to one person, merely to emphasize the insult: *Va donc, bande de vaches!* get away, you swine!)

2. *Coller quelqu'un sous bande*, to reduce somebody to silence; to stump, flummox, someone.

bandit, *adj.* Dishonest. *Vous ne vous imaginez pas ce qu'ils sont bandits dans ce magasin-là*, you've no idea what robbers they are in that shop.

bannière, *sb.f.* *Être en bannière*, to have no clothes on but one's shirt. (Allusion to the tails flying like a banner.)

banque, *sb.f.* 1. Trade of mountebank.

2. *Faire de la banque*, to puff up one's goods.

baptiser, *vb.tr.* *Baptiser son vin*, to put water in one's wine.

Baptiste, *proper name.* *Tranquille comme Baptiste*, (a) quiet as a mouse, (b) cool as a cucumber.

baragouin, *sb.m.* Gibberish.

baragouinage, *sb.m.* Gibberish.



baragouiner. 1. *vb.tr.* *Baragouiner l'anglais*, to talk broken English.

2. *vb.intr.* To talk gibberish.

baraque, *sb.f.* 1. House (esp. a ramshackle one).

2. Group of persons of the same trade or occupation (pejorative).

3. Private parts.

barbant, *e, adj.* Boring. *Un travail barbant*, a tedious job.

barbaque, *sb.f.* Meat (esp. of bad quality).

barbe. 1. *sb.f.* (a) Bore, nuisance. *C'est une barbe, quelle barbe!* it's a bore, what a nuisance! *C'était la barbe et les cheveux!* it was no end of a bore! I was bored to death, to tears. (From the expression of French hairdressers *pour la barbe ou les cheveux?* shave or hair-cut?) *Oh, la barbe!* oh, rot! do shut up! dry up! stow it! I'm bored, fed up.

(b) Old man behind his time. *Les vieilles barbes de 48*, the old fogies of 1848.

2. *adj.* *Ce qu'il est barbe le pauvre vieux!* what a bore the poor old fellow is!

barbe-à-poux, *sb.f.* Shaggy beard. (*Lit.* fit for lice to live in.) Used as a general term of abuse. *Va donc, eh, barbe-à-poux!*

barbeau, *sb.m.* Pimp. (*Cp.* ALPHONSE.)

barber. 1. *vb.tr.* To bore. (*Cp.* RASER.)

2. *vb.pr.* To be bored. *Ce qu'on s'est barbé!* it was no end of a bore. *On s'est barbé à cent francs de l'heure*, we were bored to tears. (*Lit.* a hundred francs an hour would have been the proper fee for the amount of boredom we had to stand.)

barbillon, *sb.m.* = BARBEAU.

barbiset, *sb.m.* = BARBEAU.

barbotage, *sb.m.* Robbery, scrounging.

barboter. 1. *vb.tr.* To pinch, scrounge, bone. *On m'a barbota ma pipe*, somebody's boned, sneaked, my pipe.

2. *vb.intr.* To muddle about, to footle, to make a mess of it.

barboteur, *euse, sb.m.f., and adj.* A cadger, a scrounger. (*Cp.* BARBOTER.)

barbouillé, *sb.m.* 1. Young and inexperienced person. *Ça n'est pas un travail à confier à un barbouillé de cet âge-là*, this is not a job to be given to such a greenhorn. (*Lit.* one who is still *barbouillé*, smeared all over the face like a baby.)

2. Ugly person.

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barca, *interj.* Nothing doing! (An Arabic word used by colonial soldiers.)

barda, *sb.m.* Impedimenta; bundle of things necessary to a soldier, pack; hence luggage of any kind. (An Arabic word introduced by colonial soldiers.)

barder, *vb.intr.* *Ça va barder*, there will be danger, hardships, etc., look out for squalls. *Ça a bardé la semaine dernière*, we had a hard time of it last week. *Maintenant il faut que ça barde!* now we've got to put some vim into it, things have got to hum a bit.

barouf, **baroufle**, *sb.m.* Noise, row, (*fig.*) scandal. *Il a fait du barouf hier soir*, he made a lot of noise last night. *Ils ont fait un baroufle du diable*, they kicked up a hell of a row. *Ça fera du barouf si ça se sait*, if that comes out there will be no end of a scandal. (*Cp.* BACCHANAL.)

barré, *e, p.p.* *Être barré des voitures*, to be out of danger, to have a cushy job.

barrer. 1. *vb.tr.* To leave. *Barrer le boulot*, to drop working, to take a day off.

2. *vb.pr.* To make off, escape. *Ils se sont barrés immédiatement*, they skedaddled at once.

basane, *sb.f.* 1. *La basane*, cavalry regiments. (From the sheep-skin continuations of their trousers.)

2. Obscene gesture expressing contempt. *Tailler une basane*, to make a gesture.

basculer, *vb.intr.* (Of a criminal) To turn informer, to squeal, to turn nark. (*Cp.* *retourner la vapeur.*)

bas-du-cul, *sb.m.* Exceedingly short fellow, little breeches, shrimp, tom-tit. (*Lit.* whose bottom is near the ground.) (*Cp.* he's got the ducks' disease.)

basset, *sb.m.* Revolver. (*Cp.* AZOR, ABOYEUR.)

bassin, *sb.m.* and *adj.* *Ce qu'il est bassin avec ses histoires!* how boring he is with his stories!

bassiner, *vb.tr.* To bore stiff, to plague, to importune.

bassinoire, *sb.f.* (*Lit.* warming-pan.) Boring thing or person.

Bastocche, *la*, *proper name.* The Bastille district (of Paris).

bastringue, *sb.m.* 1. Low music-hall.

2. Noise. *Faire du bastringue*, to make a row.

3. Noisy and inferior music.

4. = BARDA.

bataclan, *sb.m.* Any collection of things. *Il a emporté ses meubles, ses livres, et tout le bataclan*, he took away his furniture, his books and the whole boiling, the whole bag of tricks.

bataillon, *sb.m.* *Inconnu au bataillon*, stock phrase meaning 'we do not know him,' 'he is not one of us.'

bat d'af, *sb.m.* = BADAF.

bateau, *sb.m.* 1. Cock-and-bull story. *Monter un bateau à quelqu'un*, to tell somebody lies, fictitious stories; to deceive, to kid, somebody. *Il m'a monté un bateau*, he's been pulling my leg.

2. Shoe (esp. of big size).

3. *Le dernier bateau*, the last fashion, the latest craze.

bath. 1. *adj.* Good, tip-top, A1. *Un bath type*, a topping chap, a topper. *On a fait un bath dîner*, we had a slap-up dinner. *Il a été bath comme tout*, he was as pleasant as anything.

2. *interj.* Good! that's good luck! that's top-hole!

bathment, *adv.* In a *bath* manner.

batifolage, *sb.m.* Skylarking.

batifoler, *vb.intr.* To frolic, skylark.

batifoleur, *euse*, *adj.* Fond of skylarking.

batifouiller, *vb.intr.* To get muddled.

bâton, *sb.m.* 1. Battalion. *Il est du 3ème bâton*, he belongs to the third battalion.

2. *Mener une vie de bâton de chaise*, to lead a fast life.

3. *Tour de bâton*, illicit gain, graft.

4. *Bâton merdeux*, see MERDEUX.

bâtons, *sb.m.pl.* Legs, drumsticks, stumps. *Mettre les bâtons*, to be off, to hop it. (*Cp.* BAGUETTES, BOUTS DE BOIS.)

battage, *sb.m.* Exaggeration, boasting. *C'est du battage*, it's exaggerated, affected, that's all bluff, show. *Faire du battage autour d'un livre, d'un auteur*, to boom a book, an author, for all it, he, is worth.

battoirs, *sb.pl.* (*Lit.* washerwoman's beaters.) Hands, flippers.

bavasser, *vb.intr.* = BAVER 1 (a).

baver. 1. *vb.intr.* (*Lit.* to slaver.) (a) To talk, chatter, gossip, slobber, blab.

(b) To be astounded. *Il en bavait d'apprendre ça*, he was flabbergasted to hear of it.

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(c) To be angry. *Il en bavait*, he was simply furious, foaming, raging, in a paddy. *Ça le fera baver*, U.S.: that'll get his goat.

2. *vb.tr.* In the stock phrase: *en baver des ronds de chapeaux*. (Same meaning as before, perhaps slightly more emphatic. *Lit.* to be so much astonished that one stands gaping and saliva runs down from one's mouth so abundantly as to fall into large drops, as big and round as the crown of a hat.)

bavette, *sb.f.* *Tailler une bavette*, to talk, gossip. *Les vieilles femmes aiment bien tailler des bavettes*, old women are fond of talking, gossiping. (*Cp.* Latin *caedere sermones*.)

baveux, *sb.m.* (*Lit.* slobberer.) Newspaper. *Turbiner les baveux*, to pore over the (racing) papers in order to get a good tip.

bazar, *sb.m.* Any collection of things (esp. confusedly gathered). *J'enverrai sauter tout le bazar*, I'll chuck up, smash up, the whole bally show, the whole caboodle.

bazarder, *vb.tr.* To get rid of by selling (esp. at a low price). *Il a bazardé tout ce qu'il avait*, he has sold off all he possessed.

beau, bel, belle, *adj.* 1. Strong, big. *Il est bel homme*, he is strongly built, a fine figure of a man. *Elle est belle femme*, she is tall and strong, a fine woman.

2. (Intensifying) *C'est un beau voyou!* a regular cad he is! *Le patron, c'est une belle vache*, the boss is a first-class rotter, he is.

beaucoup, *adv.* Substituted for *très* in pop. French, or in childish language. *Il est beaucoup paresseux*, he is very lazy.

bébé, *sb.m.* *Ta bouche, bébé!* (with the frequent addition *t'auras une frite*), you dry up! shut up there! (and for your reward you'll have a chip).

Bébert, *proper name.* Popular diminutive of *Albert*.

bec, *sb.m.* Mouth. 1. *Laisser quelqu'un le bec dans l'eau*, to leave someone in the lurch.

2. *Avoir le bec salé*, to be always thirsty.

3. *Avoir le bec fin, être un bec fin*, to be fond of dainty fare, a connoisseur of good living, an epicure.

4. *Une prise de bec*, a quarrel, set-to, slanging match, squabble.

5. *Tenir quelqu'un le bec dans l'eau*, to put somebody off with fine words, to keep someone on a string.

6. *Tomber sur un bec*, see *BEC DE GAZ*.



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bécane, *sb.f.* Bike, jigger.

bécarre, *sb.m.* Dandy.

bécasse, *sb.f.* and *adj.* Silly girl.

bécassine, *sb.f.* = BÉCASSE.

bec-de-moule, *sb.m.* Idiot, duffer, juggins.

bec de gaz, *sb.m.* *Tomber sur un bec de gaz*, to meet with any kind of unforeseen obstacle, to come a cropper. (*Lit.* to knock against a lamp-post. *De gaz* is often omitted.)

bêcher, *vb.tr.* To criticize, run down.

bécot, *sb.m.* Kiss. *Un gros bécot*, a good smack.

bécoter, *vb.tr.* To kiss.

bec(que)tance, *sb.f.* Food, grub.

bec(que)ter, *vb.tr.* and *intr.* (*Lit.* to peck at food.) To eat. *Becqueter des clarinettes*, to fast, to do without food.

bec-salé, *sb.m.* See BEC 2.

bedaine, *sb.f.* Belly. *Tu parles d'une bedaine!* talk of a corporation!

bedon, *sb.m.* Belly, corporation.

bedonner, *vb.intr.* To become pot-bellied, to develop a corporation.

béguieuse, *sb.f.* and *adj.* Touch-me-not sort of person. *Elle fait la béguieuse*, she is prudish. *Ils ne sont pas béguieuses*, they are not strait-laced.

béguulerie, *sb.f.* Prudery.

béguin, *sb.f.* 1. Love, fancy. *Il a un (le) béguin pour elle*, he is in love with her, he is gone, sweet, on her. (Sometimes said of a thing, to have a fancy for.)

2. The person who is the object of a *béguin*. *Il paraît qu'il a plaqué son béguin*, they say he's thrown over his girl.

beigne, *sb.f.* (From *beignet*, fritter.) Blow, slap, biff. *Fous-lui une beigne!* fetch him a clout. (*Cp.* *coller un pain*, *recevoir des croquignoles*, *coller une tarte*.)

Belgique, *proper name.* *Filer en Belgique*, to make tracks for Belgium. (Said of a bankrupt or an embezzler. *Cp.* to go to Texas.)

belle, *sb.f.* The third and deciding game, when each player has already won one. *Maintenant faisons la belle*, now let's play the rubber, the rub.

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bellure, *sb.f.* Silly, gullible person, duffer, fathead. *Comme bellure, j'ai jamais vu ça!* I never came across such a noodle before.

belotte, *sb.f.* Card game.

belotteur, *euse, sb.m. and f.* One who is fond of playing *belotte*.

ben, *adv.* Popular pronunciation of *bien*.

bénéf, *sb.m.* (= *bénéfice*) Profit, pecuniary gain, advantage.

béquot, *sb.m.* = BÉCOT.

berdouille, *sb.f.* 1. Mud, slush.

2. Money troubles, misery. *Être dans la berdouille*, to be hard up.

3. Belly.

berge, *sb.f.* Year.

bergère, *sb.f.* 1. Woman.

2. Disreputable woman.

berloque, *sb.f.* (= *breloque*, military signal sounded on bugle.)

Battre la berloque, to rave, to be crazy, to talk nonsense. *Ma montre bat la berloque*, my watch is quite crazy, goes anyhow.

bernique, *interj.* Expresses disappointment. *Je comptais sur lui, bernique!* I relied upon him, but he failed me; what a sell!

berouette, *sb.f.* Popular pron. of *brouette*, wheelbarrow.

Bertha, *proper name.* 1. Heavy shell (42 cm).

2. Heavy gun. *La grosse Bertha*, the big gun that bombarded Paris, Big Bertha.

bêsef, *adv.* = BÉZEF.

besoin, *sb.m.* *Faire ses besoins*, to go to the privy, to do one's business. *Faire un petit besoin*, to make water. *Faire un gros besoin*, to do one's jobs. (*Cp.* COMMISSION.)

bestiau, *sb.m.* Horse, gee-gee.

bêta, *bêtasse, sb.m. and f.* A silly person, muff, noodle.

bête, *adj.* 1. Untoward, annoying. *Il pleut encore, c'est bête, ça!* it's raining again, what a nuisance! botheration!

2. *Je me suis trouvé bête quand on m'a dit qu'il n'y avait plus de place*, I found myself in a fix when they told me there was no room left.

3. *C'est bête comme chou*, (a) it's very silly, (b) it's very simple, as easy as pie.

betterave, *sb.f.* 1. Peasant, clodhopper, bumpkin. (With



special reference to the French peasants of the North where the beetroot is cultivated.)

2. Nose (esp. big and red, like a beetroot).

beuglant, *sb.m.* Low sort of music-hall, concert-hall where the audience used to sing (*beugler*, to bellow) with the singer.

beugler, *vb.tr.* and *intr.* To shout, bawl.

beugne, *sb.f.* = BEIGNE.

beurre, *sb.m.* 1. Money, profit. *Faire son beurre*, to make profits, to make one's fortune, to feather one's nest, to make one's pile. *Ça mettra du beurre dans les épinards*, that will make life more comfortable. (*Lit.* that will put butter into the spinach.)

2. *Ça fait mon beurre*, it is to my advantage, it is the very thing for me.

3. *C'était un vrai beurre*, there was nothing hard about it, it wasn't a tough job, it was as easy as could be.

4. *Avoir un œil au beurre noir*, to have a black eye from a blow; a 'mouse.'

5. *Pas plus de . . . que de beurre en broche*, none at all. *J'ai cherché ce livre, mais pas plus de livre que de beurre en broche*, I looked for this book, but I could not lay hold of it, it was not to be found.

bézeff, *adv.* Much (esp. used negatively). *Il n'y en a pas bézeff*, there isn't much of it. *Bono bézeff!* very good! that's all right, so much the better.

biberon, *sb.m.* Drunkard, boozier, soaker, tippler.

biberonner, *vb.intr.* To booze, tinkle.

bibi. 1. *pron.* Myself. *Ça c'est pour bibi*, this is for number one.

2. *sb.m.* Private. *Un simple bibi* (sometimes *de deuxième classe* is added).

bibine, *sb.f.* 1. Public-house of low order.

2. Beer of inferior quality, any tasteless drink, slops.

bica, *sb.m.* Fourth year student in a class of candidates for the *École Normale Supérieure*, or the *École Polytechnique*.

biche, *sb.f.* Term of endearment. Ducky, lamb.

bicher, *vb.intr.* *Ça biche?* how goes it? *Ça biche, les affaires?* how is business? *Ça ne biche pas avec sa femme*, he does not get on well with his wife.

bichon, *sb.m.* = BICHE.

bichonner, *vb.tr.* and *pr.* To adorn. *Il aime à se bichonner*, he likes to get himself up regardless, make himself pretty.

biclo, *sb.m.* A bike.

bico, bicot, *sb.m.* = ARBICO.

bidard, *sb.m.* Lucky fellow. *C'est un veinard de bidard!* he is a lucky dog, he is!

bide, *sb.m.* Belly. *S'en mettre plein le bide*, to have a tuck in, to blow one's hide out.

bidel, *sb.m.* (From Bidel, a celebrated menagerie manager.) Infantry instructor on board a man-of-war.

bidoche, *sb.f.* Meat (esp. of low grade).

bidon, *sb.m.* 1. = BIDE.

2. Worthless thing of its kind. *Tout ça c'est du bidon!* that's all rubbish!

bidonnant, e, *adj.* Quite comical, screaming, killing. *Une histoire bidonnante*, a simply killing story. (*Lit.* so ludicrous that one's *bidon* is shaken up by laughter. *Cp.* side-splitting.) (*Cp.* CREVANT, DÉVISSANT, GONDOLANT, GONFLANT, MARANT, PISSANT, POILANT, ROULANT.)

bidonner. 1. *vb.tr.* and *intr.* (*Lit.* to drink out of a *bidon*, water-bottle.) To swig, booze. *Passe-moi le vin, je vais bidonner un coup*, pass the wine, I'll have a swig. *Il est toujours à bidonner chez le marchand de vin*, he is always boozing at the pub.

2. *vb.pr.* To laugh uproariously, to be convulsed with laughter. (*Cp.* SE BOYAUTER, SE GONDOLER, SE GONFLER, SE MARER, SE PISSER, SE ROULER.)

bien, *adj.* *Être bien de chez soi*, to be well-to-do.

bière, *sb.f.* *Ça n'est pas de la petite bière*, it's something like, it's A1, that's not so dusty! (*Cp.* 'no small beer.')

biffe, *sb.f.* 1. Trade of rag-picker.

2. Infantry. *Il est dans la biffe*, he is a foot-slogger.

biffeton, *sb.m.* Ticket (theatre, railway, etc.).

biffin, *sb.m.* 1. Infantryman, foot-slogger.

2. Rag-picker.

bigorneau, *sb.m.* Soldier of the *infanterie de marine*. (*Cp.* Jolly = Royal Marine.)

bigornette, *sb.f.* Cocaine, snow.

bigorre, *sb.f.* Colonial artillery.

bigre, *interj.* (Mild form of BOUGRE.) *Bigre, vous y allez fort!* by Jove, great Scott, dash it, you're coming it a bit strong!

bigrement, *adv.* (Mild form of BOUGREMENT.) Intensely. *Ça m'ennuie bigrement!* it gives me no end of bother. *C'est bigrement dur*, it's devilish hard.

bijou, *sb.m.* Term of endearment. *Mon bijou*, my pet, ducky, dear, honey.

biler, *se*, *vb.pr.* To worry, to fret one's self. *Il ne se bile jamais*, he never frets himself, he takes things easy.

bileux, *euse*, *adj.* Given to worry, fretting (people who worry being supposed to increase their secretion of bile). *Il n'est pas bileux*, he is a happy-go-lucky, devil-may-care, sort of chap.

billard, *sb.m.* 1. *Dévisser son billard*, to die, to kick the bucket, to peg out. (*Cp.* ARME.)

2. Operation table. *Passer, monter, sur le billard*, to be operated upon.

3. No-man's-land. *Monter sur le billard*, to get out of a trench for an attack, to go over the top.

4. *Avoir une bille de billard*, see BILLE 2.

bille, *sb.f.* 1. Face (usually pejorative). *Une sale bille*, an ugly-looking face.

2. *Bille de billard*, bald head.

3. Fool, duffer, fathead. *Me prends-tu pour une bille?* do you take me for a mug? (*Cp.* PLOUM.)

billet, *sb.m.* 1. *Je vous fiche mon billet que . . .*, I swear, I take my davy, that. . . .

2. *Prendre un billet de parterre*, to come a cropper. (*Lit.* to secure a seat for the pit; a play upon the words: *parterre*, pit; and *par terre*, on the ground, down.)

3. Thousand francs. *Ça vaut cinquante billets, ce diamant-là*, a diamond like that is worth fifty thousand francs.

biloter, *se*, *v.pr.* = SE BILER.

binaise, *sb.f.* (= COMBINAISE from *combinaison*.) Trick, cunning device, stratagem. *Il connaît les binaises*, he is up to all the moves, he knows the ropes, he is up to snuff.

binelle, *sb.f.* *Faire binelle*, to be bankrupt.

binette, *sb.f.* Face, phiz, mug, dial. (*Cp.* BALLE 2.)

bingre, *sb.m.* Executioner.

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bique, *sb.f.* (*Lit.* she-goat.) 1. (a) Horse.

(b) Nag, jade, screw, etc.

2. Peevish old woman.

birbe, *sb.f.* Fellow (usually pejorative). *Je ne connais pas ce vieux birbe-là*, I don't know that old dodderer.

biribi, *sb.m.* Penal regiments in Africa. *Aller à biribi*, to be sent to one of these.

bis, *sb.m.* = BISTRO.

bisbille, *sb.f.* Falling out, bickering. *En bisbille*, at loggerheads.

bise, *sb.f.* Kiss.

biseauté, *e*, *adj.* *Cartes biseautées*, marked, faked, prepared, cards; *U.S.*: bum cards, a cold deck.

biser, *vb.tr.* To kiss.

bisness, *sb.m.* (= Eng. business.) *Faire son bisness*, to ply one's trade. (*Esp.* of prostitutes.)

bisquer, *vb.intr.* To be vexed. *Ça me fait bisquer de le voir si veinard*, it riles me to see him so lucky. *Bisque, bisque, rage!* (school slang) there's having you! yah! yah boo!

bisteck, *sb.m.* Pop. pron. of *bifeck*, beefsteak.

bistouille, *sb.f.* 1. Mixture of spirits and coffee, bad spirits.

2. Tales, lies. *Tout ça, c'est de la bistouille*, this is all nonsense, rubbish, bosh.

bistro(t), *sb.m.* 1. Keeper of public-house.

2. Public-house.

bistrote, *sb.f.* Pub-keeper's wife.

biture, *sb.f.* 1. Booze. *Prendre une biture*, to get drunk, to booze.

2. *S'en donner, se flanquer, une biture*, to have one's fill (of anything), to do oneself well.

3. A great quantity of anything. *Il y en avait une biture*, there were pots, bags, lashings, of them.

biturer, *vb.tr.* To make drunk.

bizarde, *adj.f.* Pop. feminine form of *bizarre*, queer.

bizuth, *sb.f.* Freshman at the *École Polytechnique*.

blackbouler, *vb.tr.* 1. To pluck at an exam. *Il s'est fait encore blackbouler au baccalauréat*, he's failed again at the baccalauréat.

2. Not to elect a candidate. *Il s'est fait blackbouler aux dernières élections*, he was not returned at the last election.

blague, *sb.f.* 1. Lie, false story, bunk, humbug, flam. *Raconter des blagues*, to tell lies. *Quelle blague!* bosh! nonsense! you don't say so! don't tell that to me! *Blague à part!* *blague dans le coin!* I'm not joking! honest Injun! no kid! *Allons, blague dans le coin!* come now, chuck being funny, don't talk nonsense! *Non, sans blague?* no, really? no, honest? honest Injun?

2. Trick. *Il m'a fait une blague*, he fooled me. *Il fait toujours des blagues*, he is always up to all sorts of tricks.

3. Blunder. *J'ai fait une blague*, I have made a blunder.

blaguer. 1. *vb.intr.* (a) To tell lies, to talk nonsense, to joke. *On ne peut pas le croire, il blague toujours*, you can't believe him, he's humbugging all the time.

(b) To chatter, gossip. *Il aime bien blaguer*, he is fond of chattering.

2. *vb.tr.* To tease, chaff. *Il m'a blagué là-dessus*, he teased me about it.

blagueur, *euse*, *sb.m.f.*, and *adj.* One who is fond of *blague*, a leg-puller, a wag; waggish.

blair, *sb.m.* Nose, smeller, conk, boko. *Je lui jambonnerai le blair*, I'll smash his mug for him.

blairer. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To smell.

(b) *J'ai pas le blairer*, I can't stand him.

2. *vb.intr.* To have a (bad) smell.

blanc, *che*, *adj.* *S'il est jugé je ne le vois pas blanc*, if he is tried he's in for it.

blanc, *sb.m.* White wine. *Un verre de blanc, un petit blanc*, a glass of white wine.

blanche, *sb.f.* Glass of brandy.

blanchisseur, *sb.m.* Barrister for the defence.

blanquette, *sb.f.* Washerwoman.

bléchar, *e*, *adj.* = **BLÈCHE**.

blèche, *adj.* Ugly, bad of its kind (sometimes untoward).

bled, *sb.m.* 1. No-man's-land.

2. Open country.

3. Sometimes used as a synonym of **MILIEU**, *q.v.*

bleu. 1. *sb.m.* (a) Blue mark left by a blow, bruise.

(b) Young inexperienced soldier, rookie; hence raw hand of any kind. (*Cp.* **APPRENTI**.)

(c) *Petit bleu*, letter-card sent in Paris by pneumatic tube (from the colour).

(d) *Passer au bleu*, (i) to conceal, to manage to keep secret; (ii) not to be known. *Il espère que ça passera au bleu*, he hopes nobody will be the wiser for it.

(e) *Gros bleu*, coarse red wine (very dark).

(f) *N'y voir que du bleu*, not to see through it. *Il n'y a vu que du bleu*, he was none the wiser for it.

2. *adj.* (= *stupéfait*) Astounded, flabbergasted.

bleue, *sb.f.* Absinthe. *Prendre la bleue*, to drink an absinthe. (On the use of the definite article in this expression see LA, LE.)

bleussaille, *sb.f.* (*Cp.* BLEU 1(b).) Young recruit.

2. *coll.* Young recruits.

blindé, e, *adj.* 1. Drunk, tight, well sprung.

2. Plucky.

3. Proof against danger, disease, etc. (*Cp.* VERNI.)

bloc, *sb.m.* 1. Prison, quod. *Fourrer au bloc*, to put in clink.

2. Anti-clerical majority in French Parliament.

blocard, *sb.m.* Member of the BLOC 2.

bloquer, *vb.tr.* = *Fourrer au bloc*. (See BLOC 1.)

blot, *sb.m.* 1. Business. *C'est mon blot*, it's my business, I'll see to that. *C'est pas ton blot*, mind your own business.

2. Price. *Pour moitié blot*, for half the price, at half price.

blouser. 1. *vb.pr.* To be wrong. *Je me suis blousé*, I was wrong, I made a blunder.

2. *vb.tr.* *Blouser quelqu'un*, to mislead somebody.

B.N.C. Abbreviation of *boisson non comprise*, a note on restaurant bills meaning that drink is charged extra.

bobard, *sb.m.* Humbug, lie. *Tout ça, c'est des bobards*, on nous l'a trop fait, that's all rot, they've done it on us too often. *C'est des bobards*, it is all bosh, tommy rot. *Des bobards à la noix*, a lot of ballyhoo.

Bobèche, *proper name*. *Chez Bobèche* (!), (?), expresses refusal or incredulity.

bobèche, *sb.f.* Head, nut.

bobéchon, *sb.m.* *On lui a monté le bobéchon*, he's been worked upon, they've poisoned his mind. *Il se monte le bobéchon*, he kids himself.

Bobichon, *proper name*. Pop. dimin. of *Robert*.



bobine, *sb.f.* Face, phiz, dial.

bobo, *sb.m.* (Child's word.) Harm, pain, sore. *Faire bobo*, to be aching. *Un bobo*, a sore place.

bobosse, *sb.m.* (= FANTABOSSE = *fantassin*.) Infantryman, foot-slogger.

bocal, *sb.m.* Room, house.

bocard, *sb.m.* Disorderly house.

boche, *sb.m.* and *adj.* (= ALBOCHE.) German. (Hence BOCHERIE, BOCHIE, BOCHISME.)

bocherie, *sb.f.* German cruelty.

bochie, *sb.f.* Germany.

bochisant, e, *adj.* Germanophile.

bochiser, *vb.tr.* To spy.

bochisme, *sb.m.* Kultur.

bock, *sb.m.* 1. Douche (for irrigation).
2. Glass of beer.

bœuf, *adj.* Beautiful, pleasant, striking. *Ça faisait un effet bœuf*, it was something gorgeous, grand, it was top-hole. *Un succès bœuf*, an enormous success.

bois, *sb.m.* 1. *Avoir la gueule de bois*, to feel out of sorts, seedy, after a spree, to feel like the morning after. (*Cp.* to have a tongue like the bottom of a parrot's cage.)

2. *Être dans ses bois*, to have one's own furniture, not to live in lodgings.

3. *Casser du bois*, (of an airman) to break some part of the aeroplane, to crash.

4. *Mettre les bois* = *mettre les bouts de bois*, to hop it, to do a bunk. (*Cp.* BAGUETTES.)

5. *Ne pas être de bois*, not to be indifferent to women's physical charms. *Qu'est-ce que vous voulez, on n'est (je ne suis, etc.) pas de bois*, stock phrase uttered to excuse sexual indulgence. (*Lit.* well, after all, we are not made of wood, are we?)

6. *Il lui poussera du bois*, his wife will deceive him. (*Lit.* his antlers will sprout, *cp.* CORNES.)

boîte, *sb.f.* 1. Any place (good or bad) where one is employed. One may say *une bonne boîte*, but the word is always taken in a bad sense when unqualified. *C'est une boîte!* it's a regular hole!

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2. Guardroom. *Coucher à la boîte, boulotter de la boîte*, to be confined in the guardroom. *Grosse boîte*, prison.
 3. Mouth. *Ferme ta boîte!* shut up! dry up!
 4. *Boîte à dominos*, coffin.
 5. *Boîte à lait*, woman's breasts.
 6. *Boîte de nuit*, place of amusement. *De nuit* is often omitted: *les boîtes de Montmartre*, the shows of Montmartre.
 7. *Mettre quelqu'un en boîte*, to make a fool of somebody. *Dis donc, je crois que tu me mets en boîte*, look here, I think you're pulling my leg.
- bolant**, *adj.* Very comical, exceedingly funny, screaming.
- bolier**, *se, vb.pr.* To amuse oneself enormously, to laugh to one's heart's content. *Ce qu'on s'est bolé!* we had no end of fun.
- bombarder**, *vb.tr.* To appoint, nominate (with implication of surprise and pushing). *Il a été bombardé gouverneur*, he has been appointed governor.
- bombe**, *sb.f.* *Faire la bombe*, to live fast, to go on the razzle. *Être en bombe*, to be on the spree, on a binge, on a bend, U.S.: making whoopee. *Aujourd'hui, c'est la bombe*, we're seeing life to-day.
- bomber**, *se, vb.pr.* *Tu peux te bomber!* don't you wish you may get it! you may whistle for it!
- bon, bonne**, *adj.* 1. *Il est bon pour quatre jours de boîte*, he's sure to get four days in clink. *Il est bon comme la romaine*, (lit. good as a cos lettuce) he's in for it, he's sure to get it in the neck, to get nabbed, etc. (Also, *bon jusqu'au trognon*, to the core.) *Je ne suis pas bon*, it's no good trying it on me.
2. *La bonne vie*, a comfortable life. *Ça sera la bonne vie*, that'll be a cushy job, I'll be in clover, we'll live like fighting cocks, we'll have a soft time of it.
3. *Y a bon*, all right. (Borrowed from the *petit-nègre* spoken by the *tirailleurs sénégalais*.)
- bondieu**, *interj. and adj.* *Quel bondieu de temps!* what rotten, U.S.: gosh awful, weather! *Quel bondieu d'imbécile!* what a bally fool!
- bondieusard**, *e, sb.m.f. and adj.* Church-goer, church-going (disparaging). (Cp. CALOTIN, RATICHON.)
- bondieuserie**, *sb.f.* Anything (material or not) connected with worship. (With an implication of ugliness, or silliness.) *Marchand de bondieuserie*, one who deals in 'soppy' religious objects.



bonhomme, *sb.m.* 1. Soldier. *Envoyez de suite trois bonhommes* (not *bonshommes*) *de corvée*, send three fellows on fatigue duty at once.

2. *Faire son petit bonhomme de chemin*, to toddle along.

boniche, *sb.f.* Young maid-servant, skivvy, slavey.

boniment, *sb.m.* (*Lit.* showman's patter.) 1. Deceitful talk or reasoning, clap-trap, eye-wash, gas. *Il m'a raconté des boniments*, he told me all sorts of lies, he kidded me. *Tenir des boniments de femme soûle*, to talk tommy rot.

2. *Faire du boniment à quelqu'un*, to try to coax someone (by cajoling talk). *Faire du boniment à une femme*, to make love to a woman, to tell her the tale.

bonir, *vb.tr.* To tell lies, to come out with queer arguments.

bonjour. 1. *sb.m.* *Venir, passer, dire un petit bonjour*, to pay an informal visit. *Passez donc nous dire un petit bonjour*, just come and drop in one day.

2. *Facile comme bonjour*, easy as damn it, easy as my eye, as kiss my hand.

bonne, *sb.f.* 1. *Avoir quelqu'un à la bonne*, to be well disposed towards somebody. *Il ne m'a jamais eu de la bonne*, he always had a down on me, he could never stick me.

2. *En avoir de bonnes*, to have queer ideas, funny notions or reflexions. *Vous vous figurez que je sortirai par un temps pareil? Ah bien, vous en avez de bonnes!* you think I'll go out in such weather? Well now, I like that! What an idea!

bonne-femme, *sb.f.* 1. Woman, girl (disparaging). *Je l'ai rencontré hier avec deux bonnes-femmes*, I came across him yesterday with a couple of tarts. (The connotations of *bonne-femme* in such context are altogether different from the *bonne femme* in, *j'ai demandé le chemin à une bonne femme que j'ai rencontrée près du village*, when the expression calls up a good old country woman.)

2. Mistress. *Il était avec sa bonne-femme*, he was with his girl.

bonnet, *sb.m.* 1. *C'est bonnet blanc et blanc bonnet*, it's six of one and half a dozen of the other.

2. *Triste comme un bonnet de nuit*, as dull as ditch water, as glum as a funeral.

bonnir, *v.tr.* = BONIR.

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bono, *interj.* Good! all right! (One sometimes adds *bézeff*, same meaning.)

bon sang, *interj.* and *adj.* Expresses impatience, admiration, etc. My God! Good Lord! Good Heavens! *Bon sang que c'était beau!* my word, but it was fine! *Bon sang d'idiot!* infernal idiot!

bonze, *sb.m.* Old man (esp. one with antiquated notions), old crock, foggy.

bordée, *sb.f.* *Tirer une bordée*, to go on the spree.

bordel. 1. *sb.m.* (a) Brothel. (In French the word has come to be a very low one, and it is not at all an equivalent of brothel.)
(b) Any disorderly place or state of affairs.
(c) Soldier's kit.

2. *interj.* Used as an oath with an almost inexhaustible series of appendages.

borne, *sb.f.* *Planter une borne*, to ease oneself, to have a bog.

boscot, *e*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Hunchback.

bossant, *e*, *adj.* Very comical, screaming.

bosse, *sb.f.* 1. *S'en payer une bosse*, (a) to have a jolly lark, to have a lot of fun; (b) to get plenty of something (esp. to drink and eat).

2. *Rouler sa bosse*, to wander about the world. *J'ai roulé ma bosse un peu partout*, I've knocked about a great deal, all over the world.

3. *Coller sa bosse*, (schoolboy) to give, make, a back (at leap-frog).

bossier, *vb.intr.* 1. = *s'en payer une bosse*. *Ce que j'ai bossé hier!* what a spree I had yesterday!

2. To drudge, toil, grind.

bossoirs, *sb.m.pl.* Plump woman's breasts. (*Lit.* catheads projecting from the bows.) (*Cp.* AVANT-SCÈNES, BALCON.)

bossu, *sb.m.* 1. *Rigoler, se tordre, comme un bossu*, to have plenty of fun, to laugh uproariously.

2. Rabbit. *Un bossu en civet*, a juggled rabbit.

botte, *sb.f.* 1. *Proposer la botte*, to propose sexual intercourse.

2. *A propos de bottes*, with reference to nothing in particular; irrelevantly.

botter, *vb.tr.* 1. To kick. *Botter le derrière*, to toe the backside. *Il se fera botter le derrière*, he'll get his bottom kicked; (also *fig.*) he'll get properly talked to.

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2. To please, suit. *Ça me botte*, it suits me all right, that's the very thing for me. *Il me botte ce type-là*, I like that fellow.

bouc, *sb.m.* 1. *Porter le bouc*, to wear a goatee.

2. *Bouc de régiment*, sapper. (Because formerly sappers wore 'goatee' beards.)

boucan, *sb.m.* Noise, row, scandal. *Faire le boucan*, to be noisy, riotous, to kick up a row, a racket. *Ça fera du boucan si ça se sait*, that'll be no end of a scandal if it gets out. *Il a fait un boucan de tous les diables*, he raised a hell of a rumpus. (*Cp.* BACCHANAL.)

boucaner, *vb.intr.* To stink, hum. (*Cp.* COGNER, FOUETTER, TAPER.)

bouche, *sb.f.* 1. *Ta bouche!* shut up! *Ta bouche bébé, t'auras une frite!* same meaning. (See BÉBÉ.)

2. *Être sur sa bouche*, to be greedy, dainty, to have a sweet tooth.

bouché, *e, adj.* Stupid, dense, *U.S.*: dumb. *Ce qu'il est bouché!* what a fathead! *U.S.*: a dumbbell! *Bouché à l'émeri*, as dull as lead (*lit.* stopped up with a ground-glass stopper).

boucher, *vb.tr.* *En boucher un coin, une surface, à*, to astound, to make a successful retort to. *Ça lui en a bouché un coin*, he was flabbergasted, struck all of a heap, crushed; that knocked him silly, bowled him out, fetched him up all standing. *Ça m'en bouche une surface!* I can't get over that! that beats me!

bouchon, *sb.m.* 1. *Mettre un bouchon à quelqu'un*, to make somebody shut up. *Mets-y un bouchon!* dry up! put a sock in it!

2. *C'est plus fort que de jouer au bouchon!* well I never! this beats everything! it takes the biscuit! (Allusion to the game of *bouchon* in which a cork on which coins are piled up is to be knocked down with a quoit or a coin.)

3. *Ramasser un bouchon*, to come a cropper, to experience a failure.

bouclage, *sb.m.* Imprisonment.

boucle, *sb.m.* Imprisonment. *Si on me repince, c'est la boucle*, if I get nabbed again, it's the clink, I am in for it.

boucler, *vb.tr.* 1. To imprison. *Se faire boucler*, to be put in clink, in the stone jug, to get run in.

2. *Se boucler (se mettre) la ceinture, se la boucler*, (a) to tighten

one's belt (for want of food), to go short; (b) to have to go without anything, to whistle for it.

3. To shut. *Boucle-la!* dry up! *Boucler la lourde*, to shut the door.

boudin, *sb.m.* *Tourner, s'en aller, en eau de boudin*, to come to nothing, to fizzle out.

bouffarde, *sb.f.* Pipe.

bouffe-la-balle, *sb.m.* Greedy-guts, big fat fellow.

bouffer, *vb.tr.* 1. To eat, to feed, scoff.

2. To hurt. *Va le voir, il ne te bouffera pas*, go and see him, he won't eat you.

3. *Bouffer de la tête de cochon*, to be butted in the stomach.

4. *Bouffer de la case*, to be in prison, to do time.

5. *Bouffer le blair, le nez, les foies*, to quarrel, fight.

6. *Bouffer du curé*, to be a fierce anticlericalist.

bouffi, *sb.m.* Only used in the stock phrase, *tu l'as dit, bouffi*, just so, right you are, you talk like a book. (*Cp. tu parles Charles!*)

boufre, *sb.m.* Man, fellow, bloke, cove, beggar, blighter.

bougeotte, *sb.f.* *Avoir la bougeotte*, not to be able to stay in the same place, to have the fidgets.

bouger, *vb.intr.* *Pas bouge!* (to little children) keep quiet!

bougie, *sb.f.* 1. Face, phiz. *Il a une sale bougie*, he has a villainous face.

2. Five-franc piece.

bougnat, e, bougna, *sb.m.f.* 1. (= *Charbougna, charbonnier.*) Coalman.

2. Big shell. (So called on account of thick smoke emitted when bursting. *Cp. gros noir, sac à charbon*; Eng. Black-Maria, coal-box, Jack-Johnson; Germ. *Kohlenkester, schwarze Sau.*)

bougre. 1. *sb.m.* Fellow, chap, beggar. *Un pauvre bougre*, a poor devil. *Un sale bougre*, a bad egg, a rotter, a dirty dog. *Un bon bougre*, a good chap, a brick. *Il est épanté, ce bougre-là*, he is a caution, he takes the cake.

2. *adj.* (Merely intensifying) *Bougre d'idiot!* bally idiot!

3. *interj.* *Bougre, ça c'est différent!* by Jove, this is quite another matter! (Though *bougre* has the same derivation as 'bugger,' the original acceptation has completely disappeared

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in French, and the word belongs not to foul but to very colloquial language.)

bougrement, *adv.* *Bougrement beau, bon, mauvais, etc.*, jolly fine, good, bad, etc. *J'ai bougrement travaillé*, I've worked jolly hard.

bougresse, *sb.f.* *Fem.* of BOUGRE 1.

bouiboui, *sb.m.* Music-hall, penny-gaff, coffee-house of low order.

bouif, *sb.m.* 1. Cobbler, snob.

2. Affected person. *Faire du bouif*, to swank. (*Cp.* snob.)

bouillasse, *sb.f.* Mud, slush. *Être dans la bouillasse*, to be miserable, hard up, in the soup.

bouille, *sb.f.* = BOUILLOTTE.

bouillon, *sb.m.* 1. *Boire, prendre, un bouillon*, to come to grief, to experience a failure. *Il a pris le bouillon*, his business has gone smash.

2. *Donner un bouillon de onze heures à quelqu'un*, to murder someone by giving poison. (*Cp.* to give a person his gruel.)

3. Water. *Tomber dans le bouillon*, to fall into the water, get a ducking.

4. Unsold copy of a newspaper. *Les bouillons*, the returns.

5. Popular restaurant (formerly specialized in serving soup).

bouillonnage, *sb.m.* = *les bouillons*. *Éviter les bouillonnages*, to avoid too heavy returns.

bouillotte, *sb.f.* Head, nut, phiz, dial. *Tu parles d'une bouillotte!* talk of a mug!

boulange, *sb.f.* 1. *La boulange*, the supporters of General Boulanger (1886), the Boulangists.

2. Boulangism, the political movement centring on General Boulanger.

boulanger, *sb.m.* *Remercier son boulanger*, to kick the bucket.

boule, *sb.f.* 1. Head, nut, block, onion. (*Cp.* BURETTE, CAFETIÈRE, CALEBASSE, CIBOULOT, CITRON, COLOQUINTE, FIOLE, TROGNON, TROMBINE, TRONCHE.) *Il a perdu la boule*, he's gone daft, he's off his nut.

2. *Boule de son*, military loaf.

3. *Se mettre en boule*, (a) to miss one's landing (aviation); (b) to bristle up. *Il se met en boule dès qu'on lui parle de ça*, as

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soon as you talk to him about it, it puts his back up. *Se mettre en boule contre quelque chose*, to be dead set against something.

bouleau, *sb.m.* = BOULOT.

bouler, *vb.tr.* *Envoyer bouler quelqu'un*, to send someone to the right-about, send someone sprawling.

Boule-Miche, *proper name.* *Boulevard Saint-Michel*, in the Latin quarter.

boulette, *sb.f.* Gross mistake, bloomer. *Faire une boulette*, to make a blunder, to drop a brick.

boulonner, *vb.intr.* To work, to toil.

boulot. 1. *sb.m.* (a) Work. *Il y a du boulot*, there is plenty of work. *Il aime son boulot*, he is fond of his job.

(b) Business. *Ça n'est pas ton boulot*, that is not your business.

(c) Meal, food, grub. (*Cp.* BOULOTTER.)

2. *adj.* *Être boulot*, to be fond of work, to feel like working.

boulot, otte, *sb.m.f.* Short, thick, or fat person, a podge.

boulotter. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To eat.

(b) To spend. *Il a bouloté 500 francs dans sa journée*, he blued, got through, five hundred francs in one day.

2. *vb.intr.* To get on. *Comment ça va-t-il?—Ça boulotte*, how are you getting on?—All right.

boum, *interj.* *Ça m'est tombé boum sur la tête*, it fell bang on to my head. *Boum, voilà!* said by a waiter to mean that he has heard customer's call: yessir! coming, sir! right, sir!

bouquin, *sb.m.* Book.

bouquiner, *vb.tr.* To read. *Il est toujours à bouquiner*, (a) he's a regular bookworm; (b) he is fond of hunting after old books.

bourain, *sb.m.* = BOURRIN.

bourde, *sb.f.* 1. Lie, stuff, twaddle. *Conter des bourdes*, to talk nonsense.

2. Mistake. *Faire une bourde*, to make a blunder.

bourgeoise, *sb.f.* *La bourgeoise*, my wife, the missus.

bourgeoiserie, *sb.f.* Pop. pron. of *bourgeoisie*.

bourin, *sb.m.* = BOURRIN.

bourguignon, *sb.m.* Sun. *Le bourguignon tape dur*, it's very hot weather.

bourlinguer, *vb.intr.* To toil (esp. at odd jobs, and irregularly).

bourrage de crâne, *sb.m.* Lies, false statements, balderdash, eye-wash. *Tout ça, je n'en crois rien, c'est du bourrage de crâne*, I don't believe that, it's all tosh, they're stuffing us. (See **BOURRER**.)

bourratif, *ve*, *adj.* Too heavy or nutritious, very filling. *Un plat bourratif*, a very heavy dish.

bourre, *sb.m.* *Les bourres*, the detectives in charge of prostitutes.

bourrer, *vb.tr.* *Bourrer le crâne à quelqu'un*, to tell somebody lies, especially to hoax, to stuff someone (up), to deceive by filling up or cramming with false stories, empty talk. *Les journaux nous bourrent le crâne*, the papers are kidding us. (Also *bourrer le mou*.)

bourrés, *sb.m.pl.* Loaded dice.

bourreur de crâne, *sb.m.* One who *bourre le crâne*. (See **BOURRER**.)

bourrichon, *sb.m.* *Monter le bourrichon à quelqu'un*, to rouse, to work upon, somebody. *On lui a monté le bourrichon contre moi*, they have excited him against me. *Il se monte facilement le bourrichon*, he easily works himself up into a state, he kids himself easily.

bourricot, *sb.m.* 1. Donkey.

2. *Kif-kif bourricot*, quite the same, six of one and half a dozen of the other, much of a muchness.

bourrin, *sb.m.* Horse, nag, screw.

bourrique, *sb.f.* 1. Old or bad horse, jade. *Faire tourner quelqu'un en bourrique*, to drive somebody mad, off his nut.

2. *Plein comme une bourrique*, as drunk as a fiddler, as Davy's sow; full as a tick.

3. Pig-headed person.

4. Policeman, police-spy, informer, nark.

bousculer, *vb.tr.* *Bousculer le pot de fleurs*, to exaggerate, to come it strong.

bousillage, *sb.m.* Bungled work, slop-work.

bousiller, *vb.tr.* 1. To spoil, do badly, botch. *Bousiller un travail*, to bungle, mess up, a job. *Travail bousillé*, slop-work. (Aviation) *Bousiller son appareil*, to crash one's plane.

2. To kill. *Il s'est fait bousiller*, he was done in.

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bousin, *sb.m.* 1. Disorderly house. (Also *fig.*) *Cette maison est un vrai bousin*, this house is a regular bedlam.

2. Noise, row. *Faire du bousin*, to be riotous. *Il a fait un bousin de tous les diables*, he kicked up a deuce of a row. (From the English cant word 'bowsing,' 'bowsing ken,' a low tavern.) (*Cp.* BACCHANAL.)

boussole, *sb.f.* Head, nut. *Perdre la boussole*, to lose one's head. *Il a perdu la boussole*, he is crazy, daft, off his chump.

boustifaille, *sb.f.* Food, grub.

boustifailer, *vb.tr.* and *intr.* To eat, feed (esp. greedily or often). *Il est toujours en train de boustifailer*, he is always stuffing himself.

boutique, *sb.f.* 1. House, institution, establishment (esp. in a bad sense). *Quelle boutique!* what a beastly hole! *J'enverrai sauter toute la boutique*, I'll chuck up the whole concern, the whole caboodle, the whole shebang, the whole boiling, the whole rotten show.

2. *Et toute la boutique*, and all the paraphernalia. *Il a eu la croix de guerre, la Légion d'honneur, et toute la boutique*, he got the *croix de guerre*, the Legion of Honour, and all the rest of it, the whole bag of tricks, the whole blinking lot.

3. *Montrer toute sa boutique*, to show oneself naked.

bouts de bois, *sb.m.pl.* *Mettre les bouts de bois*, to decamp, to cut and run, hop it. (*Cp.* BAGUETTES.)

boyautant, e, *adj.* Very comical, side-splitting, killing, screaming.

boyauter, se, *vb.pr.* To laugh heartily, to split one's sides with laughter. (*Lit.* to shake up one's bowels with laughter. *Cp.* SE BIDONNER.)

boxon, *sb.m.* Brothel.

braise, *sb.f.* Money, tin. (*Cp.* AUBER.)

brancards, *sb.m.pl.* Legs. (*Lit.* poles.)

branche, *sb.f.* *Ma vieille branche*, old bean.

branco, *sb.m.* (= *brancard*, stretcher) Stretcher-bearer. *J'étais dans les brancos*, I was a stretcher-bearer.

braque, *adj.* Crazy, barmy, daft.

braquet, *sb.m.* (Cycling) Gear. *Changer de braquet*, to change gear.

bras, *sb.m.* *Avoir les bras retournés*, to be lazy, to have no hinge in one's back, a bone in the knee. (*Lit.*, to have one's arms the wrong way round.) *Des bras cassés*, loafers, weary-Willies.

brème, *sb.f.* Playing-card. (*Lit.* bream. *Cp.* broads, flats.) *Manier les brèmes*, to play cards. *Maquiller les brèmes*, to fake the cards, to be a sharper.

bretelle, *sb.f.* *Aller à quelqu'un comme des bretelles à un lapin*, to suit one very badly. *Ça lui va comme des bretelles à un lapin*, he looks a regular guy, he's a sight.

bricheton, *sb.m.* Bread.

brichetonner, *vb.intr.* To feed.

bricole, *sb.f.* Trifle. *Il s'est fait punir pour une bricole*, he's been punished for a trifle.

bricoler, *vb.intr.* To do odd jobs.

bricoleur, *sb.m.* Jack-of-all-trades.

briffe, *sb.f.* Food, grub.

briffer, *vb.tr.* To eat, feed.

briffeton, *sb.m.* Bread.

brin, *sb.m.* *Un beau brin de fille*, a fine strapping lass.

brindezingue. 1. *adj.* Drunk, three sheets in the wind.

2. *sb.m.pl.* *Être dans les brindezingues*, to be drunk, to be half-seas-over.

bringue, *sb.f.* 1. *Faire la bringue*, to lead a fast life, to be out for a spree. *Ce soir on fait la bringue*, to-night we are going on a bend.

2. *Une grande bringue*, a tall, gawky girl.

brinqueballer, *vb.intr.* To sway to and fro, to dangle.

brioche, *sb.f.* Blunder. *Faire une brioche*, to make a blunder.

brique, *sb.f.* 1. *Manger, bouffer, des briques*, to have nothing to eat.

2. *Poil de brique*, (nickname of a red-haired person) 'ginger,' 'carrots,' 'brick-top.'

brocheton, *sb.m.* (*Lit. petit brochet*, young pike.) Young pimp.

broque, *sb.f.* *Pas une broque*, not a mite.

broquille, *sb.f.* Minute.

brosse à dents, *sb.f.* *Mil*: Moustache.

brossée, *sb.f.* Thrashing, dressing down. *Ils ont reçu une brossée*, they got a licking, they had their jackets properly dusted.

brosser, *vb.tr.* To beat, give a dressing down to.

se brosser le ventre, **se brosser**, *vb.pr.* To have to do, to go, without. *Il a fallu nous brosser*, we had to do without, to tighten our belts. *Tu peux te brosser*, don't you wish you may get it.

brûlé, *adj.* 1. *Être brûlé*, to be known, found out (of swindler, sharper, etc.), and unable to perform any longer; to be dished. *Je suis brûlé*, I am finished, bust up. (*Cp.* GRILLÉ.)

2. *Une tête brûlée*, a devil-may-care fellow.

3. *Ça sent le brûlé*, (a) that looks fishy; (b) that looks bad.

brûle-gueule, *sb.f.* Short clay pipe, cutty.

brûler, *vb.intr.* (At various games such as hunt the thimble) To be very near finding it (hidden thing or solution, etc.). *Tu brûles*, you're burning.

brutal, *s.m.* Heady, heavy, wine.

bu, *p.p.* of *boire*. Drunk (of a person). *Il est bu*, he's sprung.

bûche, *sb.f.* 1. Stupid fellow. *Quelle bûche!* what a fathead!

2. *Ramasser une bûche*, to fall down, come a mucker.

bûcher, *vb.tr.* 1. To work hard, to swot. *Il bûche son latin*, he is swotting at his Latin. *Ce que ça m'a fait bûcher!* what a swot it was! *Je bûche mon examen*, I am grinding for my exam.

2. To strike, beat. *Je le bûcherai*, I'll baste him.

bûcheur, *euse*, *sb.m.* and *adj.* Studious or hardworking person, *U.S.*: a dig. *C'est un bûcheur*, *il sera reçu*, he is a sap, he'll pass his exam.

buffet, *sb.m.* Stomach, bread-box. 1. *Rien à se mettre dans le buffet*, nothing to put into one's bread-basket.

2. *Enfoncer le buffet à quelqu'un*, to go for, to slip into, pitch into, someone.

burette, *sb.f.* Head, nut, mug.

buriner, *vb.intr.* To work.

burlingue, *sb.m.* (= *bureau*) Office.

buter, *vb.tr.* 1. To pummel, to batter. *Je le buterai*, I'll hammer him.

2. To kill, murder, *U.S.*: bump off.

buvable, *adj.* Tolerable (applied to things without any connection with drink, and chiefly used in the negative). *J'ai une envie de pisser pas buvable*, I'm simply wild for a pump-ship. (A jocular variant of *potable*, the proper meaning of which has been similarly extended.)

C

ça, *pr. dem.* 1. Substituted for *il* in *ça pleut*, *ça fait chaud*, it's raining, it is hot weather.

2. *Avec ça que*, expresses asseveration. *Avec ça qu'il n'aime pas boire!* don't tell me he doesn't booze. *Avec ça qu'il est gentil avec moi!* don't imagine he's kind to me. *Il n'aime pas boire?* *Avec ça!* he doesn't like to drink? Nonsense!

3. *Comme ça*, often added in popular speech without any definite force and rather to give more body to the sentence. *Il m'a dit comme ça, je lui ai répondu comme ça*, etc.

4. *C'est pas tout ça*, introduces a new order of ideas: that's all very well but. . . . *C'est pas tout ça, mais il faut rentrer à la maison*, will be said by way of giving a kind of conclusion to a conversation. In another context the same expression may have the force 'that's not the point,' 'that won't do anyhow.'

5. *Avoir de ça* (usually accompanied with a rubbing of the thumb over the tip of the forefinger as in giving money). *Il a de ça*, he's got the stuff, the wherewithal.

6. *Faire ça*, to have sexual intercourse.

cabane, *sb.f.* *Attiger la cabane*, see ATTIGER.

cabèche, *sb.f.* Head, nut, etc.

cabji, *sb.m.* Corporal or lance-corporal.

caboche, *sb.f.* Head, noddle, pate. *Quelle caboche dure il a!* how obstinate he is! what a blockhead!

cabochon, *sb.m.* Blow, plug, smack.

cabombe, *sb.f.* Candle, lamp, glim.

cabosser, *vb.tr.* To dent, batter. *Un chapeau cabossé*, a battered hat.

cabot, *sb.m.* 1. Dog, poodle.

2. Actor (contemptuous), mummer, barn-stormer.

3. Corporal.

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cabotin, *sb.m.* Actor (contemptuous).

caboulot, *sb.m.* Small public-house or restaurant.

caca, *sb.m.* Excrement. 1. *Faire caca*, to do one's jobs.

2. *C'est caca*, (child's expression) it's dirty, bad, nasty, dangerous (you must not touch it).

cacafouiller, *vb.intr.* 1. = BAFOUILLER.

2. (Of things, chiefly of engine or mechanism) To work badly, irregularly.

cachemire, *sb.m.* Clout, dishcloth, napkin, used by waiters to wipe the table. *Un coup de cachemire!* just wipe that table clean.

cachotterie, *sb.f.* 1. Tendency to concealment (esp. of trifling things).

2. *Faire des cachotteries*, to keep things back.

cachottier, ère, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* One who is fond of keeping things 'dark'; secretive, close.

cacique, *sb.m.* 1. Candidate passing in first at the *École Normale Supérieure*.

2. Head-master.

cadavre, *sb.m.* 1. Body.

2. Wine-bottle emptied of its contents; dead man, dead 'un.

cadeau, *sb.m.* *Joli cadeau à faire à un enfant*, ironical stock phrase.

cafard, *sb.m.* 1. Blues, hump. *J'ai le cafard*, I've got the hump, I am in the dumps.

2. One who peaches. *C'est un cafard*, he is (a) a sneak; (b) a spy.

cafarder, *vb.intr.* (a) To peach, to sneak; (b) to spy.

caf-conce, *sb.m.* (= *café-concert*) Music-hall.

café, *sb.m.* (*Un peu*) *fort de café*, expresses exaggeration in action or statement. *Ça c'est un peu fort de café!* that's a bit steep! (*Cp. aller fort.*)

cafetière, *sb.f.* Head. (*Cp. BOULE.*)

cafeton, *sb.m.* (= *café*) Coffee-house, café.

cafouillage, *sb.m.* Faulty working, missing (of motor, electric equipment, etc).

cafouiller, *vb.intr.* = CACAFOUILLER.

cagibi, *sb.m.* Small room or hut, place where one stores up things.



cagna, *sb.f.* Dug-out.

cagne, *sb.f.* Class of candidates for the *École Normale Supérieure*.
Être en cagne, to be in such a class.

cagneux, *sb.m.* Student in a *CAGNE*.

cahoua, *sb.m.* Coffee.

caille, *sb.f.* 1. *Avoir à la caille*, to dislike. *Je les ai à la caille*, they get on my nerves, they put my back up.

2. *Être à la caille*, to resist, show fight, grouse, grumble, to kick over the traces.

caillou, *sb.m.* 1. *Envoyer casser des cailloux*, to send to a penal colony. (*Cp.* to pick oakum, to break stones.)

2. Head, skull. *Il n'a plus de mousse sur le caillou*, he is bald.

caïman, *sb.m.* Usher at the *École Normale Supérieure*.

caisse, *sb.f.* 1. Guard-room. *Grosse caisse*, military prison. *Faire de la grosse* (*caisse* is often omitted), to be put in clink.

2. Stomach. *Je n'ai rien au fond de la caisse*, I have not eaten anything, I've nothing in my breadbasket.

3. Head, in *bourrer la caisse* = *bourrer le crâne*.

caisson, *sb.m.* Head, only used in the expression *se faire sauter le caisson*, to blow out one's brains.

calbombe, *sb.f.* = *CABOMBE*.

calé, *e*, *adj.* 1. Proficient. *Il est calé en histoire*, he is well up in history.

2. Difficult. *Un sujet calé*, a stiff subject.

3. Rich, substantial, well off. *Ce sont des gens calés*, they are people of substance.

calebasse, *sb.f.* 1. Head, nut. (*Cp.* *BOULE*.)

calembour, *sb.f.* (*Lit.* pun.) Insult, abuse. *Envoyer des calembours*, to slang, to call names.

caler. 1. *vb.tr.* *Se caler les joues, se les caler*, to eat heartily. *Il est en train de se les caler*, he is doing himself well.

2. *vb.intr.* To show the white feather, not to be game, to funk. *Ne cale pas!* keep your pecker up!

cal(e)ter, *vb.intr.* To go, to make off, to hop it. *Je suis pressé, je calète* (pron. *calte*), I am in a hurry, I'll be off. *Caletz, et en vitesse!* get out, be off, and double quick!

calicot, *sb.m.* Counter-jumper. (The use of this nickname for a draper's assistant is derived from a comedy by Scribe and

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Dupin (1817) in which a ridiculous character, a draper, is called M. Calicot.)

calot, *sb.m.* 1. Forage cap.

2. Eye. *Ribouler des calots*, to roll one's eyes.

calotin, *e*, *sb.m.f.* 1. Priest.

2. Church-goer, person siding with the priests, clerical (disparaging).

calotte, *sb.f.* 1. (*Lit.* skull-cap) Priesthood, black-cattle; friends of priests. *A bas la calotte!* down with the priests! down with clericalism!

2. Box on the ear. *Je vais te donner une calotte*, I am going to slap your face.

camarade, *sb.m.* (From the Germans' cry *Kamerad*.) *Faire camarade*, to give oneself up, to surrender.

camarade-syndiqué, *sb.m.* Term of friendship among workmen whether of the same trade-union or not, 'mate.'

camaro, *sb.f.* (= *camarade*) Friend. *Les camaros*, pals, chums.

cambouis, *sb.m.* *Royal cambouis* (= *train des équipages*), Army Service Corps, soldier belonging to this corps.

cambrio, *sb.m.* (= *cambrioleur*) Burglar.

cambriole, *sb.f.* 1. Room.

2. Act of *cambrioler* (breaking into a room).

3. Trade of a burglar.

Cambronne, *proper name*. *Let mot de Cambronne*, the word supposed to have been uttered by General Cambronne at Waterloo when summoned to surrender, *i.e.* MERDE.

cambrousard, *sb.m.* 1. Peasant, clodhopper.

2. Wide-awake fellow.

cambrousse, *sb.f.* Country (opposed to town).

cambuse, *sb.f.* House (usually pejorative). *C'est une cambuse*, it is a beastly hole, a dog-hole.

camelot du roi, *sb.m.* (*Lit.* king's hawk.) Young man affiliated to the *Action française*, a royalist association, and selling royalist papers for propaganda.

camelote, *sb.f.* 1. Worthless stuff, rubbish, junk. *C'est de la camelote*, it's regular trash.

2. Any stuff (good or bad). *Fais voir ta camelote!* let us

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have a look at your stuff. (One may even hear *c'est de la bonne camelote*.)

cameloter, *vb.tr.* To bungle, botch.

camoufle, *sb.f.* Candle, lamp, light, glim.

camouflet, *sb.m.* Affront, rap over the knuckles.

camp, *sb.m.* *Ficher, fiche, foutre, foute, le camp*, to decamp, to make off, to hop it, make tracks.

campagne, *sb.f.* 1. *Emmener quelqu'un à la campagne*, not to care at all for somebody, for what he may say. *Le patron, je l'emmène à la campagne!* the boss can go and catch spiders, may go to the deuce for all I care! may go and boil his head! (Often pronounced drawling the first syllable of *em . . . mène*, as if one was about to say *emmerde*.)

2. *Battre la campagne*, to ramble, to wander, to rave. *Il bat la campagne*, he is off his chump, he's got a tile missing.

camplouse, campluche, *sb.f.* = CAMBROUSSE.

campo, *sb.m.* = CAMPOS.

campos, *sb.m.* Holiday, relaxation. *Donner campos aux élèves*, to give the pupils a holiday. *J'ai campos aujourd'hui*, to-day I am free, it's my day off. (From the old school expression *primarius dabit hodie ad campos*, the headmaster will give a holiday to-day, to play about the fields. *Cp. donner la clef des champs*, to let go, to give liberty; *prendre la clef des champs*, to scamper away.)

canaille, *sb.f.* 1. (a) Worthless, dishonest fellow, scamp. (The classic meaning, 'rabble,' 'mob,' is unknown to popular French, in which the word always refers to an individual.)

(b) Term of playful endearment. *Qu'est-ce que tu fais là, petite canaille?* what are you up to, you little rip? you little rascal?

2. *adj.* Blackguardly. *Une allure canaille*, a blackguardish look.

canailerie, *sb.f.* Dirty trick (such as may be played by a *canaille*).

canard, *sb.m.* 1. False news. *N'en croyez rien, c'est un canard*, don't you believe it, it's only a rumour, a hoax.

2. Newspaper. *Je ne lis pas ce canard-là*, I don't read that rag.

3. Horse, jade, screw.

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4. Lump of sugar dipped in brandy or coffee.
5. *Trempe comme un canard*, as wet as a drowned rat.

canarder, *vb.tr.* To pelt with missiles, to pepper.

canasson, *sb.m.* = CANARD 3.

caner, *vb.intr.* = CALER 2.

caneur, *sb.m.* One who lacks pluck, a coward.

canfouine, *sb.m.* 1. Canteen.

2. House, *esp.* poor lodging.

canne, *sb.f.* 1. *Avoir avalé sa canne*, to walk stiff and solemn as if one had swallowed one's walking-stick. (*Cp.* to have swallowed the poker.)

2. *Casser sa canne*, to die, peg out, kick the bucket.

cannette, *sb.f.* A bottle of beer.

canon, *sb.m.* *Rien à se mettre dans le canon*, nothing to eat.

cantoche, *sb.f.* Canteen.

canulant, *adj.* Boring.

canule, *sb.f.* Bore.

canuler, *vb.tr.* To bore.

canular, *sb.m.* Practical joke, hoax (*École Normale Supérieure* slang).

caoua, *sb.m.* = CAHOUA.

capilotade, *sb.f.* *En capilotade*, (*lit.* smashed to pulp) knocked into smithereens. *Le train a été mis en capilotade*, the train was smashed to matchwood. *J'ai le dos en capilotade*, my back is sore all over, black and blue.

capiston, *sb.m.* Captain.

capon, *e*, *sb.f.* and *adj.* Coward, funky.

caponner, *vb.intr.* To show the white feather, to have cold feet.

capote anglaise, *sb.f.* 'French letter.'

capout, *e*, *adj.* (*Germ. Kaput.*) *Faire capout*, to kill.

carabin, *sb.m.* 1. Medical practitioner or student, medico, saw-bones.

2. *Carabin de la comète*, see COMÈTE.

carabiné, *e*, *adj.* Violent, intense of its kind. *Un mal de dents carabiné*, a violent toothache. *Un toupet carabiné*, no end of a cheek.

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carafe, *sb.f.* 1. Head. (*Cp.* BALLE.)

2. *Rester en carafe.* (a) To be forgotten, to remain idle while others are employed in some work or amusement, to be left out (in the cold). (b) To be unable to go on. *Il est resté en carafe au milieu de son discours*, he stopped short, he stuck, in the middle of his speech.

carapater, *se, vb.pr.* To decamp, to make tracks.

carbonade, *sb.f.* Washing soda.

carcan, *sb.m.* 1. Horse, nag.

2. Tall, lean, gawky woman.

3. Shrew.

carlingue, *sb.f.* Cockpit of aeroplane.

carne, *sb.f.* 1. Tough meat.

2. Old horse.

3. Nasty person, rotter, cantankerous fellow.

carotte, *sb.f.* 1. *Tirer une carotte à quelqu'un*, to coax money out of somebody, (and generally) to humbug. *Il m'a encore tiré une carotte*, he has done, tricked, me again.

2. *Poil de carotte*, nickname of a redheaded boy, 'carrots.'

carotter, *vb.tr. and intr.* 1. To do, to humbug.

2. To get by fraud. *Carotter une permission*, to wangle a leave. *Carotter de l'argent à quelqu'un*, to diddle someone out of money.

carottier, *sb.m. and adj.* One who CAROTTE, an imposter, humbug, shirker, also a malingerer.

carouble, *sb.f.* False key used by burglars, a 'screw.'

carpe, *sb.f.* *Le mariage de la carpe et du lapin*, any unsuitable mixture of things or persons.

carreau, *sb.m.* 1. Eye.

2. *Se garder, se tenir, à carreau*, to be on one's guard. (From a saying of card players, *qui se garde à carreau n'est jamais capot.*)

3. *As de carreau*, soldier's haversack.

carré, *sb.m.* 1. Second year student in certain schools.

2. Four of a kind at poker. *Un carré d'as, etc.*, four aces.

carré, e, adj. *Partie carrée*, party of four (two men and two women).

carrée, *sb.f.* Room.

- carrer, se, vb.pr.** To put oneself somewhere. *Il se carra à l'abri*, he got into a funk-hole.
- carte, sb.f.** 1. *Être en carte*, (of a prostitute) to be on the police records. *Fille en carte*, prostitute provided with a special identity card.
 2. *On t'enverra des cartes (postales)*, slightly ironical stock phrase addressed to people when leaving them for some journey. The rather vague meaning of it amounts to this: you people are obliged to stay at home, whereas we are going to see the world, but never mind, we will think of you occasionally.
- casaquin, sb.m.** *Tomber sur le casaquin de quelqu'un*, (a) to give someone a thrashing; (b) to give someone a talking to, a wiggling.
- casba(h), sb.f.** House.
- cascader, vb.intr.** To lead a fast life, to go the pace.
- cascadeur, euse, sb.m.f. and adj.** A reveller; roistering. One fond of CASCADER. *Une cascadeuse*.
- case, sb.f.** Prison. *Bouffer de la case*, to be a prisoner, to do time.
- casoar, sb.m.** Plume of the shako of a *Saint-Cyrien*.
- casque, sb.m.** *Avoir, prendre, son casque*, to be, to get, drunk. (Cp. AIGRETTE.)
- casque-à-mèche, sb.m.** Night-cap.
- casquer, vb.tr.** To pay. *Je le ferai casquer*, I'll make him fork out, cough up.
- casquette, sb.f.** *Prendre une casquette = prendre un casque*, (denotes a milder form of intoxication) to get squiffy.
- casse, sb.f.** Disturbance, trouble, ructions, etc. (Lit. breakage.) *Il y a eu de la casse*, (after a battle) the losses are severe. *Il y aura de la casse si le patron apprend cela*, there will be ructions if the boss hears of that.
- casse-gueule, sb.m.** 1. Fiery, raw spirit, rot-gut.
 2. Low (and dangerous) dance-hall.
- casse-pattes, sb.m.** Raw spirits (esp. of bad quality; lit. strong enough to break one's legs), U.S.: tangle-foot. (Cp. knock-down = strong ale.)
- casse-poitaine, sb.m.** Brandy. (Cp. CASSE-PATTES.)

- casser**, *vb.tr.* 1. *Casser la croûte*, to have a snack, a bite.
2. To tell off. *Qu'est-ce qu'il va te casser quand tu rentreras!* you'll get a regular talking to when you get, go, back.
3. *Casser le morceau*, to turn informer, to betray the secrets of an accomplice, to split on someone, to blow the gaff. (*Cp. se mettre à table.*)
4. *Casser sa pipe*, to die, kick the bucket, peg out.
5. *Casser des cailloux*, to be in a penal colony.
6. *Casser du sucre sur la tête de quelqu'un*, to criticize, run down someone, to speak maliciously of somebody.
7. *Une noce (une bombe, un gueuleton) à tout casser*, a hell of a spree.
8. *Se casser le poignet sur*, to pinch, scrounge. *Ne te casse pas le poignet sur mon tabac!* don't you bone my baccy!
9. *Ne rien se casser*, to take it easy. *Ils ne se cassent rien dans ce bureau*, they have a soft job in that office.
- casement**, *sb.m.* Act of burglary.
- casserole**, *sb.f.* 1. Informer, sneak, police spy.
2. Old pianoforte.
3. Big watch, 'turnip.'
- casseroler**, *vb.tr.* To inform against.
- casseur**, *sb.m.* Burglar.
- cassiette**, *sb.f.* Pop. pron. of *casquette* (cap).
- castapiane**, *sb.f.* Gonorrhoea, clap.
- castrole**, *sb.f.* Pop. pron. of *casserole*.
- catholique**, *adj.* *Ne pas avoir l'air catholique*, (persons or things) not to look trustworthy, to look fishy.
- catiche**, *sb.f.* (= *catin*) 1. Doll.
2. Low prostitute, dolly-mop.
- causer**, *vb.tr.* Popularly substituted for *parler* in *causer l'anglais*, *causer bien*, etc.
- cavalant**, *e, adj.* Boring.
- cavaler**, 1. *vb.intr.* To run. *Il nous cavale sur le ciboulot* (a variant of *il nous court sur le ciboulot*), he is boring us.
2. *vb.tr.* To bore. *Il me cavale, ce mec-là*, I'm fed up with that bloke.
3. *vb.pr.* To be off, to make tracks, to slip along.
- cavé**, *sb.m.* Unsophisticated fellow, booby, juggins, duffer.
- Cayenne**, *proper name.* *Envoyer à Cayenne*, to send to French Guiana

for penal servitude. *Gibier de Cayenne*, one fit to be sent to Cayenne. (Cp. Newgate bird.)

cégétiste, *sb.m.* and *adj.* Member of the *Confédération Générale du Travail* (C.G.T.).

ceinture, *sb.f.* 1. *Se serrer, se boucler, se mettre, la ceinture*, to go without food, to tighten one's belt; (*fig.*) to have to do without.

2. *S'en mettre plein la ceinture*, to eat one's fill, to have a regular tuck in.

cent, *num.adj.* No 100, *le numéro cent*, the W.C.

cerf, *sb.m.* Good horseman.

cerise, *sb.f.* 1. Ill-luck. *Il a la cerise*, he is down on his luck.

2. Head. *Se taper la cerise*, to have a regular blow-out.

cézigue, *pr.m.* Him.

chabanaïs, *sb.m.* 1. Brothel. (From a well-known brothel in the street of this name in Paris.)

2. Noise, row, scandal, racket. *Tu parles d'un chabanaïs!* it was the deuce of a shindy. (Cp. bacchanal.)

chahut, *sb.m.* 1. Indecent dance.

2. Noise, row, scandal. *Faire du chahut*, to be noisy, to make, kick up, a row. (Cp. bacchanal.)

3. Ragging, horse-play. *Allons, pas de chahut!* have done with that ragging!

chahuter. 1. *vb.intr.* (a) To dance the CHAHUT.

(b) To be riotous, to play boisterously.

2. *vb.tr.* To indulge in horse-play with, to ballyrag.

Chaillot, *proper name*. Formerly a village near Paris; now in a part of the XVIth arrondissement. Taken for some unknown reason as the type of the foolish town. *Un ahuri de Chaillot*, a wise man of Gotham. *A Chaillot! go to Jericho! Je l'enverrai à Chaillot*, I'll send him to the right about.

chambard, *sb.m.* = CHAHUT 2. *Il en a fait un chambard*, he made a fine to-do about it.

chambardement, *sb.m.* Overthrow (*lit.* and *fig.*). *La révolution russe a été un chambardement général*, the Russian revolution has been a general earthquake, upheaval.

chambarder, *vb.tr.* To upset, overthrow. *On a tout chambardé chez moi*, everything has been upset in my house. *Si vous ne*

venez pas ça chambarde tous mes plans, if you don't come it upsets, plays havoc with, all my plans, it upsets my apple-cart.

chambouler. 1. *vb.intr.* To be shaky of gait, to be dotty on one's pins.

2. *vb.tr.* *Ça m'a chamboulé*, it gave me quite a turn.

chameau, *sb.m.* Blighter. Vague term of (often playful) abuse. *Un vieux chameau*, an old, ugly, peevish woman (or man), an old rotter. *Ah, les chameaux, ils en ont une veine!* what luck they have, the blighters!

champe, *sb.m.* = *champagne*. (*Cp.* *cham.*)

champoreau, *sb.m.* Coffee mixed with brandy.

chançard, *e*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Lucky.

chance, *sb.f.* *Il y a des chances!* emphatic form of asseveration. *Est-ce que tu sortiras aujourd'hui?*—*Il y a des chances!* will you go out to-day?—Most likely! (Literally the expression means, 'I am likely to do it'; practically it means, 'I am sure to do it'.)

chandail, *sb.m.* Knitted woollen over-waistcoat, sweater.

'chand d'habits, *sb.m.* Old clothes man.

'chand de vin, *sb.m.* (= *marchand de vin*) Tavern-keeper.

chandelle, *sb.f.* 1. *Devoir une chandelle à quelqu'un*, to owe a debt of gratitude to somebody. *Je vous dois une rude, une fière, chandelle!* I am awfully obliged to you!

2. *Brûler la chandelle par les deux bouts*, to be a spendthrift, (*fig.*) to ruin one's health by fast living.

3. *Faire des économies de bouts de chandelle*, to be penny wise, to be a cheese-parer.

4. *Tenir la chandelle*, to be a mere spectator (kept outside of the game).

5. *Monter en chandelle*, (*aviation*) to shoot up like a rocket.

6. *Avoir la chandelle au nez*, to be snotty.

7. *Faire des chandelles*, (*tennis*) to send balls high in the air, to lob.

8. *Voir trente-six chandelles*, to see stars as the result of a violent commotion. *Je lui collerai un pain qui lui fera voir trente-six chandelles*, I'll fetch him one that'll make him see stars.

chanter. 1. *vb.tr.* To shout, bawl, protest. *Qu'est-ce qu'il va chanter si vous êtes en retard!* what a row he'll kick up if you are late!

2. *vb.intr.* (a) To suit. *Je le ferai si ça me chante*, I'll do it if I choose.

(b) *C'est comme si je (tu, etc.) chantais*, it's no good trying it, I might as well talk to the air. *Faire chanter quelqu'un*, to blackmail someone.

(c) To squeal, to give away an accomplice.

chapeau, *sb.m.* (Typography) Introduction to an article, heading.

charabia, *sb.m.* Gibberish.

chapardage, *sb.m.* Pinching, scrounging.

chaparder, *vb.tr.* To steal, pinch, scrounge, swipe.

chapeurdeur, *euse*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Scrounger.

charcuter, *vb.tr.* To perform a surgical operation on (esp. clumsily). *On l'a charcuté trois fois*, he's been operated upon, 'cut up,' three times. (*Lit.* to mangle and hack like a *charcutier*, pork-butcher.)

charivari, *sb.m.* Tin-kettle music, row, rough music.

Charlemagne, *proper name.* *Faire Charlemagne*, (at cards) to leave the game when winning without giving the others a chance of getting their money back.

Charles, *proper name.* *Tu parles, Charles!* you may well say so, now you're talking.

Charlot, *proper name.* Pop. dim. of *Charles*. Charley, Charlie.

charogne, *sb.f.* and *adj.* *Quelle charogne! ce qu'il est charogne!* what a rotter!

charre, *sb.m.* Humbug. *Sans charre!* no kidding! bar chaff! *Il m'a fait un sale charre*, he's played a dirty trick on me.

charrier. 1. *vb.tr.* To humbug, fool, rag, pull the leg of. *Ne me charrie pas*, don't you cod me. *Je vais me faire charrier*, they'll chaff my head off.

2. *vb.intr.* (a) To joke. *Sans charrier*, without joking, honest Injun!

(b) To exaggerate, to come it strong. *Il charrie*, he is codding us. *Charrier dans les bégonias*, (*lit.* to spoil the flower beds) same meaning. (*Cp.* ABÎMER.)

chass d'af, *sb.m.* Soldier belonging to the *chasseurs d'Afrique*, light cavalry for African service.

châsse, *sb.m.* Eye.

- chat**, *sb.m.* 1. Term of endearment, ducky, honey.
 2. *Il n'y avait pas un chat*, there was not a living soul.
 3. *Non, c'est le chat!* ironical stock reply to some denial.

château-la-pompe, *sb.m.* Water, Adam's ale. *Offrir un verre de château-la-pompe*, to offer a glass of water. (Allusion to vintage wines such as *Château-Margaux*, etc.)

chaton, *sb.m.* Term of endearment, 'lambkin.'

chatouille, *sb.f.* Tickling. *Je crains la chatouille*, I'm ticklish.

chaud, *adj.* 1. *Ça ne lui fait ni chaud ni froid*, he does not care a bit, doesn't care two pins.

2. Dear. *Ça m'a coûté chaud*, (a) I paid through the nose for it; (b) I had to smart for it.

3. *Être chaud* (also *chaud de la fine*), (of a man) to be hot stuff.

4. *Opérer à chaud*, to operate upon a patient when the disease is in an acute state.

chaude-pisse, *sb.f.* Gonorrhoea, clap.

chauffard, *sb.m.* Reckless motorist, scorcher, road-hog.

chauffer. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To steal, pinch, scrounge. *On m'a chauffé mon tabac*, they've bagged my tobacco.

(b) *Se faire chauffer*, to get nailed, nabbed.

(c) To coach a pupil for an exam.

(d) *Chauffer une affaire*, to push on with an affair.

(e) *Chauffer une femme*, to make love to a woman in a very bold, pushing manner.

2. *vb.intr.* *Ça va chauffer!* we're going to have a hot time of it!

3. *C'est pas pour toi que le four chauffe!* don't you see that girl is sweet on another man?

chaussette, *sb.f.* 1. *Chaussette à clous*, shoe. (*Lit.* hob-nailed sock.) *Ils les ont renvoyés à coups de chaussettes à clous*, they've sent them flying, they kicked them out of the place.

2. *Chaussettes russes*, see *RUSSE*.

chausson, *sb.m.* 1. *Putain comme chausson*, said of a woman unable to resist amorous overtures. *C'est putain comme chausson!* she's a regular trollop! (The *chausson* and the *pantoufle* are symbols of moral laxity.)

2. *Fabriquer des chaussons de lisière*, to be in prison. (*Cp.* to pick oakum.)

chef, *sb.m.* Sergeant-major.

chelem, *sb.m.* Winning of every trick in bridge, etc.; slam.
Faire, grand, petit, chelem.

chelinguer, *vb.intr.* = SCHLINGUER.

chemise, *sb.f.* *S'en fichet, s'en moquer, comme de sa première chemise*, not to care a damn for it.

chéquard, *sb.m.* Politician bribed with a cheque. (Especially one involved in the Panama scandal.)

cher, ère, *adj.* *Ne pas valoir cher*, to be out of sorts, to feel cheap.

cherche, *pron.ind.* *Trente points à cherche*, jocular way of announcing score at cards, thirty to love. (The opponents' points are still 'to seek'.)

chérot, *adj.* Rather expensive, dearish, on the dear side.

cherrer, *vb.tr.* = CHARRIER 2.

cheval, *sb.m.* 1. *Malade comme un cheval*, as sick as a dog.

2. *Un remède de cheval*, a kill-or-cure remedy

3. *Travailler comme un cheval*, to work like a nigger.

4. *Il n'est pas mauvais cheval*, he's not a bad sort.

5. *Dîner avec les chevaux de bois*, to go without one's dinner, to dine with Duke Humphrey.

6. *Cheval de retour*, (a) returned or escaped convict sent back to penal servitude, an old lag; (b) prostitute past her prime, an old has-been.

cheveu, *sb.m.* 1. *Se faire des cheveux*, to fret oneself, to worry oneself grey.

2. *Avoir mal aux cheveux*, to feel out of sorts after a spree, to feel chippy. (Cp. *avoir la gueule de bois*.)

3. *Tiré par les cheveux*, far-fetched.

4. *Comme des cheveux sur la soupe*, out of place, unseasonably. *Cette remarque est venue comme des cheveux sur la soupe*, this remark was quite uncalled for, completely out of place.

5. *Ça me (lui, etc.) fait de beaux cheveux!* well, do you think I am (he is, etc.) any the better for it?

6. *En cheveux*, without a hat. (Only said of women.)

7. *Y trouver un cheveu*, to find a marked, and somewhat unpleasant difference in something. *Si je n'étais pas là pour t'aider, tu y trouverais un cheveu*, if I was not there to help you, you would find it quite a different proposition, it would be quite another pair of shoes.



chez qui? *interj.* Expresses denial, contemptuous refusal. *Te prêter ma montre? non, mais chez qui?* lend you my watch? never in my life, not blooming likely, rats to you! is there anything else you'd like?

chiader, *vb.tr.* To swot at, grind for (exam). *S'il veut être reçu à l'X, il faudra qu'il chiade les math.*, he must swot at mathematics if he wants to get into the *École Polytechnique*.

chialer, *vb.intr.* To blub, blubber, whine.

chialeur, *euse*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Inclined to blubber, cry-baby.

chiasse, *sb.f.* Shit. *Avoir le chiasse*, (a) to suffer from diarrhoea; (b) to funk.

chic. 1. *adj.* (a) Smart, stylish. *Des gens chics*, stylish, distinguished people. *Un chic vêtement*, a fashionable dress. (b) Fine, first-rate, good of its kind. *Un chic dîner*, a fine dinner. *Il a été très chic avec moi*, he was very kind to me, he did me very handsomely, did me proud. *Il y avait de la musique à l'enterrement, c'était chic*, there was music at the funeral, it was a swagger affair. *Ça n'est pas chic de sa part*, it's mean of him. *Un chic type*, a good pal, a brick. (*Cp. un type chic*, a fashionable, smart fellow.)

2. *sb.m.* (a) *Avoir du chic*, to be stylish. *Faire du chic*, to swank.

(b) *Avoir le chic pour faire une chose*, to have the knack of doing something, to be a dab at it.

(c) *Un chic à . . .*, three cheers for . . .

(d) *Faire quelque chose de chic*, to do something without a model or preparation. *Décrire un paysage de chic*, to describe a landscape from pure imagination.

chicandard, *adj.* Fanciful derivative from *chic*, same meaning.

chicard, *adj.* = CHICANDARD.

chiche, *inter.* Expresses defiance. *Je te parie que je le lui dirai.*—*Chiche!* I bet I'll tell him.—I bet you don't.

chichi. 1. *sb.m.* (a) Affected looks and manners. *Faire des chichis*, to make a fuss, to be snobbish, to give oneself airs. *Il ne voulait pas accepter, il faisait des chichis*, he would not accept, he made a fuss about it. *Je ne les fréquente pas, ils font des chichis, ce sont des gens à chichis*, I don't have anything to do with them, they are too affected, formal, snobbish.

(b) Difficulty, complications. *Je n'ai pu avoir la permission, il y a eu toutes sortes de chichis*, I could not get permission, there were all sorts of difficulties.

(c) Short curls of false hair.

2. *adj.* Fussy. *Elle est devenue chichi*, she's grown snobbish, she's putting on high and lofty airs, side, frills.

chicocandard, *adj.* = CHICANDARD.

chie-dans-l'eau, *sb.m.* Nickname of a sailor.

chien. 1. *sb.m.* (a) *Faire du chien*, to be dressy (of a woman), U.S.: to put on a lot of dog. *Avoir du chien*, to have winning, alluring ways. *Elle boite, mais elle a tout de même du chien*, she is lame, but she is fascinating all the same.

(b) Brandy. *Un verre de chien tout pur*, a glass of neat brandy.

(c) Term of endearment. *Mon chien*, ducky.

(d) *Avoir un chien pour*, to be in love with, to be gone on.

(e) *Chien de quartier* (= *adjudant*), regimental sergeant-major.

(f) *Chien du commissaire*, secretary to the *Commissaire de police* (the police superintendent).

(g) *Chien de temps*, *chien de métier*, wretched weather, rotten occupation, beast of a job.

(h) *Porter des chiens*, *être coiffé à la chien*, to wear one's hair cut straight across the forehead, forming a fringe, to wear a straight fringe.

(i) *Avoir du chien*, to be plucky. *Il en a du chien dans le ventre*, what pluck he has got!

(j) *Piquer un chien*, to take a nap.

(k) *Garder un chien de sa chienne à quelqu'un*, to bear malice, a grudge, against someone, to have a rod in pickle for somebody.

(l) *Recevoir quelqu'un comme un chien dans un jeu de quilles*, to receive someone like an intruder, give someone a chilly welcome.

(m) *Se donner un mal de chien*, to exert oneself to the utmost, to work like a navvy, to kill oneself.

2. *adj.invar.* Mean, parsimonious, stingy. *Ce qu'il (elle) est chien!* how close-fisted he (she) is!

chienchien, *sb.m.* Term of endearment; darling, ducky.

chiendent, *sb.m.* Impedient, difficulty. *Faire une promenade? oui, mais il fait un trop sale temps, voilà le chiendent*, go for a walk? yes, but the weather is too bad, that's the only trouble, there's the rub.

chienlit, *sb.m.* *Quel chienlit! mince de chienlit!* what a guy, a freak (he looks)!

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chier, *vb.tr.* and *intr.* 1. To shit, to crap. (*a Faire chier*, to bore, annoy, get on the nerves of. *Tu nous fais chier!* you be blowed! go to blazes! we're sick of you!

(b) *Envoyer chier*, to send to blazes.

(c) *Y a pas à chier, il faut partir de là*, say what you like, we must be off. (Often curtailed into *y a pas*.)

(d) *Il a chié dans mes bottes, dans ma malle*, he has behaved like a rotter to me, he has played me a filthy trick. (*Il a fait caca* is often substituted for *il a chié*.)

(e) *Il croit qu'il a chié la colonne (Vendôme)*, he thinks he is absolutely it.

(f) *Avoir une gueule à chier dessus*, to have a rotten face.

(g) *N'avoir pas chié la honte*, to be full of cheek.

(h) *Un gueuleton à chier partout*, a deuce of a tuck-in.

2. To fart.

3. To funk.

4. = BARDER.

chierie, *sb.f.* Any boring thing, nuisance. (*Cp. CHIER* 1 (a).)

chiffonner, *vb.tr.* To be in opposition to one's wish, to vex, to rile. *Ça chiffonne de le faire, mais je sais que je le dois*, it goes against the grain to do it, but I know I must.

chigner, *vb.intr.* To blubber, snivel.

chignole, *sb.f.* Ramshackle motor-car. *Ma vieille chignole*, my old bus.

chine, *sb.f.* *Du tabac de chine*, cadged tobacco. See **CHINER** 4.

chiner, *vb.tr.* 1. To be a rag-picker.

2. To toil, work.

3. To chaff, U.S.: razz. *On m'a chiné*, they've been ragging me, they pulled my leg.

4. To get by begging, to cadge.

chineur, *sb.m.* Cadger.

chiottes, *sb.f.pl.* Bog.

chipper, *vb.tr.* 1. To pilfer, pinch, swipe.

2. To catch (a disease).

3. *Être chipé pour*, to be in love with. *Il est chipé pour elle*, he is gone on her.

chipette, *sb.f.* *Ne pas valoir chipette*, to be worth nothing, not to be worth a cuss, a tinker's damn.

chipie, *sb.f.* 1. Peevish woman, old cat.

2. Prudish woman.

chipotage, *sb.m.* Quibbling, haggling.

chipoter, *vb.intr.* To dispute about trifles. *Chipoter pour deux sous*, to haggle over a penny.

chique, *sb.f.* 1. *Couper la chique à quelqu'un*, to interrupt somebody abruptly. *Ça m'a coupé la chique*, that cut me short, that made me dry up, struck me dumb, flabbergasted me, it was a stumper for me.

2. *Être mou comme une chique*, to be flabby (*lit.* and *fig.*).

3. *Poser sa chique.* (a) To keep quiet. *Quand j'ai vu la tournure que ça prenait, j'ai posé ma chique*, when I saw the way things were going, I kept mum. (b) To die, kick the bucket, peg out. (*Cp.* ARME.)

chiqué, *sb.m.* 1. Pretence, make-believe, fake. *Il fait le malade, c'est du chiqué*, he pretends to be ill, it's a sham, faked up. *Je ne l'aime pas, il fait trop de chiqué*, I don't like him, he is too affected, snobbish, he swanks too much.

2. Prostitute dressed like a flapper and (usually) under the wing of a pretended mother or chaperon.

chiquer. 1. *vb.intr.* To pretend, to make believe, fake up, sham. (*See* CHIQUE.)

2. *vb.tr.* (a) To eat.

(b) To fake. *Il a chiqué ses comptes*, his accounts are cooked.

choc, *adj.* (= CHIC 1 (a).) Stylish.

chocnosoff, *adj.* (Fanciful formation from CHIC 1 (b).) Fine of its kind, topping. (The form CHOCNOSO is found in Balzac's *Cousine Bette*.)

chocolat, *adj.* Deceived, taken in. *Je suis chocolat*, I have been duped, cheated, made a fool of.

chocoter, *vb.intr.* = COCOTER.

chocot(t)e, *sb.f.* 1. Dear, ducky. Often ironical, as in *Oh, chocate va!* just look at that mollycoddle! how fussy!

2. *De la chocotte*, something good, advantageous, profitable of its kind.

choléra, *sb.m.* Nasty person or state of affairs. *Cette femme-là, c'est un choléra*, that woman is a regular sickener.

choper, *vb.tr.* = CHIPER 1, 2.

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chopin, *sb.m.* 1. Stroke of good luck.

2. *Faire un chopin*, to find a (rich) lover, a mistress.

chopiner, *vb.intr.* To booze.

chose. 1. *sb.m.f.* (a) Substitute used when somebody's name is unknown; 'what's-his-name,' thingumbob. (*Cp.* MACHIN.)

(b) *Un(e) pas-grand-chose*, a worthless person, a person of doubtful morality or honesty, a rotter, a hussy.

(c) *Bien des choses chez vous*, kind regards to you and yours.

2. *adj.* *Se sentir tout chose*, to feel unwell, all-overish, like nothing on earth.

chou, *sb.m.* 1. Darling, ducky (esp. in vocative).

2. *Rentrer dans le chou à quelqu'un*, to attack somebody.

Je vais lui rentrer dans le chou, I'll go for him.

3. *C'est chou vert et vert chou*, it's six of one and half a dozen of the other.

4. *Être dans les choux*, (of a plan) to be upset, (of a person) to be in a fix, mess.

5. *Vous en ferez des choux, des raves* (said by a person who gives another some present, money, etc.), take it and use it according to your fancy, do just whatever you please with it.

6. *Bête comme chou*, see BÊTE.

chouchou, chouchoute. 1. *sb.m.f.* = CHOU 1.

2. *sb.m.* Favourite. *C'est son chouchou*, he is his darling, pet.

chouchouter, *vb.tr.* To caress, fondle.

choucroutemane, *sb.m.* German. (*Cp.* ROSBIF, Englishman; 'froggy,' Frenchman; MACARONI, Italian.)

chouette. 1. *adj.* Fine, good of its kind, A1, topping. *Chouette pays, dîner, femme, etc.*, nice country, dinner, woman, etc.

2. *adv.* *Fait chouette*, nicely, neatly, done.

3. *interj.* *Chouette!* well done! that's fine! good biz!

4. *Avoir à la chouette* = *avoir à la bonne*. (See BONNE.)

choupette, *sb.f.* 1. Powder puff.

2. Knot of ribbon.

chouriner, *vb.tr.* To stab, murder.

chouter, *vb.tr.* 1. To caress, fondle.

2. French corruption of 'to shoot' (football).

chouterie, *sb.f.* Carress, fondling.

chtouille, *sb.f.* Gonorrhoea, clap.

cibiche, *sb.f.* Cigarette, fag, gasper.

ciblot, *sb.m.* Civilian, civvy.

ciboulot, *sb.m.* Head, nut. *Courir sur le ciboulot*, to bore. *Il me court sur le ciboulot*, he's getting on my nerves. (*Cp.* BOULE.)

cigue, *sb.m.* = SIGUE.

ciné, *sb.m.* (= *cinéma*) *Je l'emmènerai au ciné*, I'll take him to the movies, to the pictures.

cingler, *vb.tr.* To arrest, catch, nab.

cing, *adj.num.* 1. *Je n'ai pas été pris, mais il était moins cing*, I was not caught, but it was a narrow shave.

2. *En cing sec* (sometimes corrupted into *cing sept*), immediately, in less than no time, without hesitation, in a jiffy. *Faire un travail en cing sec*, to dispatch a job in no time. (From the game of *écarté*, which may be played in one game *cing sec*—or in two.)

3. *Cing et trois font huit*, expression meaning that a person is limping or lame. (*Cp.* dot and carry one.)

cintième, *adj.num.* Pop. pron. of *cinquième*.

cipal, *sb.m.* (= *garde municipal*) Mounted policeman of Paris.

ciseau, *sb.m.* Used in pop. French for *ciseaux*. (*Ciseau* properly means 'chisel'.)

ciseaux, *sb.m.pl.* *A coups de ciseaux*, with scissors and paste (of an article made up of passages cut out from other articles or books).

citron, *sb.m.* Head, nut, onion. (*Cp.* BOULE.)

citrouille. 1. *sb.f.* (a) Head, nut.

(b) Simpleton, juggins.

2. *adj.* *Il a l'air citrouille*, he looks like a booby.

citrouillard, *sb.m.* Dragoon.

civelot, *sb.m.* = CIBLOT.

claboter, *vb.intr.* (= CLAMECER) To die, peg out, shuffle off, snuff it.

clac, claue, *sb.m.* Brothel.

clamecer, *vb.intr.* To die, peg out, shuffle off, snuff it. (*Cp.* ARME.)

clampin, *sb.m.* Lazy fellow, sluggard.

clampiner, *vb.intr.* To go like a CLAMPIN, to mooch about.

clampser, *vb.intr.* = CLAMECER.



claque, *sb.f.* *En avoir sa claque*, to be fed up with it. (*Cp. en avoir mare.*)

claqué, *e*, *adj.* Dead beat.

claque-patins, *sb.m.f.* A flabby, slovenly person, draggletail.

claquer. 1. *vb.intr.* To die, to go west, to pop off.

2. *vb.tr.* *Claquer une fortune*, to blow, to blue, a fortune.

clarinette, *sb.f.* Rifle.

classe, *sb.f.* Soldiers in their last year of service. *Être de la classe*, to belong to the contingent that will be sent home next. *Je suis de la classe*, (*fig.*) I am not on this job for long, I'll chuck that job before long. *Vive la classe!* hurrah for the time when we are sent back home! (*mil. or fig.*)

clé, *sb.f.* *A la clé*, expletive and somewhat intensifying expression. *Il y aura quatre jours à la clé si tu es en retard*, it'll be four days C.B. if you are late. *Il y avait du champagne à la clé*, there was champagne into the bargain.

clebs, cleps, *sb.m.* 1. Dog, poodle.

2. Corporal.

cliche, *sb.f.* 1. Diarrhoea, colic.

2. Fright, funk.

client, *sb.m.* Person to deal with (pejorative). *Un drôle de client*, a queer customer.

clique, *sb.f.* Mean, disreputable crowd. (Not to be confused with the English 'clique,' the French equivalent of which is *coterie*.)

cliques, *sb.f.pl.* Wooden shoes. Only used in the stock phrase: *J'ai pris mes cliques et mes claques et je suis parti*, I went off, I cleared out (usually implying some disgust). *Prends tes cliques et tes claques et fiche-moi le camp!* bundle off! pack up and clear out!

cloche, *sb.f.* *Déménager à la cloche (de bois)*, to shoot the moon.

cloporte, *sb.m.f.* Door-keeper. (*Lit.* wood-louse. A pun on *clôt porte*.)

cloque, *sb.f.* *Mettre en cloque*, to make pregnant.

clou, *sb.m.* 1. Worn out, wobbly, machine or instrument.

2. *Mettre au clou*, to put in pawn, U.S.: in hock, to pop, put away. *Ma montre est au clou*, my watch is up the spout.

3. *River le clou à quelqu'un*, to make a successful retort to somebody. *Je lui ai rivé son clou*, I sat upon him, scored off him.

4. *Ne pas en fichier un clou*, not to do a stroke of work.
5. *Des clous!* emphatic refusal or denial: you shan't have any! not likely! no fear! rats!
6. *Le clou de la saison*, etc., the event of the season.

clouer, *vb.tr.* *Clouer le bec à quelqu'un*, to make a decisive retort to somebody. *Ça lui clouera le bec!* that'll stop his mouth! that'll settle him!

clous, *sb.m.pl.* Tools. *Poser ses clous*, to down tools, to strike.

cocarde, *sb.f.* *Avoir sa cocarde*, to be drunk, tipsy. (*Cp.* AIGRETTE.)

cocarder, *se*, *vb.pr.* To booze.

cochon. 1. *sb.m.* (a) A very extensive term of abuse; person one dislikes. *C'est un cochon!* he is a rotter! (Also used sometimes as a jocular term of endearment. *Eh bien! mon cochon* . . . well, you old blighter . . .)

(b) Filthy person (physically or morally).

(c) Lustful fellow.

(d) *Jouer un tour de cochon à quelqu'un*, to play a dirty trick upon someone.

(e) *Jouer un pied de cochon*, to leave in the lurch.

(f) *Bouffer de la tête de cochon*, see BOUFFER 3.

(g) *Amis comme cochons*, as thick as thieves.

(h) *Je n'ai pas gardé les cochons avec lui*, we were never next door neighbours (for him to be so familiar with me).

(i) *Cochon de temps*, *cochon de métier*, beastly weather, filthy job.

(j) *Cochon de payant*, one who pays for his seat at theatre, concert, etc., as opposed to a person having an order.

2. *adj.* (a) Lustful.

(b) Inciting to lust, hot, blue. *Il aime les histoires cochonnes*, he is fond of smutty stories.

(c) Unfair. *C'est cochon de se conduire comme ça avec moi!* he has behaved in a rotten way, like a dirty dog, to me.

cochonceté, *sb.f.* Broad, smutty, jest.

cochonner, *vb.tr.* To botch, to bungle, to do in a slovenly manner. *C'est cochonné, ce travail-là!* you've simply made a mess of that job, it's mucked up.

cochonnerie, *sb.f.* 1. Dirty trick.

2. Smutty talk or action.

3. Trashy stuff, rubbish.

4. Pork-butcher's stuff.

coco. 1. *sb.m.* (a) (Child's word) Egg.

(b) Throat, stomach. *Se mettre, s'enfiler, quelque chose dans le coco*, to put something away in one's stomach, to put something down one's gullet.

(c) Fellow (always in bad sense). *Un sale coco*, a rotter, a bad egg. *Un drôle de coco*, a queer stick, a rum customer.

(d) Term of endearment. *Mon coco!* my little darling, my ducky!

(e) *A la noix de coco*, bad of its kind. *Des boniments à la noix de coco*, specious, empty talk, silly rigmarole, U.S.: bally-hoo.

2. *sb.f.* Cocaine, snow.

3. *adj.* (= *rococo*) Old-fashioned.

cocodès, *sb.m.* Dandy.

cocoter, *vb.intr.* To stink, hum, niff.

cocotte, *sb.f.* 1. Term of endearment. *Ma cocotte, ma cocotte chérie*, my darling, ducky, dear.

2. Fast woman, tart.

3. Horse, gee-gee. *Hue cocotte!* gee-ho! gee-up!

4. (Child's word) Hen, chickabiddy.

5. *Les deux cocottes*, number 22 (from its likeness to two *cocottes en papier*, i.e. paper folded in the shape of a hen to amuse children).

cocu, *sb.m.* and *adj.* Cuckold. *Avoir une veine de cocu*, to have the devil's own luck.

coffrer, *vb.tr.* To put into prison. *Se faire coffrer*, to get run in.

cogne, *sb.m.* Policeman, constable, copper.

cogner. 1. *vb.intr.* To stink, hum. (*Cp.* FOUETTER, GAZOULLER, TAPER.)

2. *vb.pr.* To fight.

cognon, *sb.m.* Fight.

coin, *sb.m.* 1. In the expression *coin de la gueule*, 'face,' no particular part being meant. *Recevoir un coup de poing sur le coin de la gueule*, to get a punch in the mug.

2. *En boucher un coin à quelqu'un*, to astound someone, to take the wind out of someone's sails. *Ça m'en bouche un coin*, I am flabbergasted, this licks me absolutely.

3. *Blague dans le coin*, joking apart, bar chaff. *Non, mais blague dans le coin, viendras-tu?* no, but seriously, will you come?

coincer, *vb.tr.* To arrest. *Il se fera coincer*, he'll get nabbed, pinched.

coinsteau, *sb.m.* Little corner.

colbasse, *sb.f.* Room.

col bleu, *sb.m.* Sailor, bluejacket.

colique, *sb.f.* (a) *Avoir la colique*, to be in a funk.
(b) Boring fellow.

colis, *sb.m.* Awkward person, gawk, duffer, etc. (*Cp.* BALLOT.)

collage, *sb.m.* (a) Cohabitation of man and woman not legally married.

(b) Such a couple.

collant, *e*, *adj.* Who cannot be got rid of. *Un individu collant*, a barnacle, a limpet. *Ce qu'il est collant l'animal!* what a burr the blighter is! (*Cp.* a sticker.)

colle, *sb.f.* 1. *Faites chauffer la colle!* stock phrase uttered when someone breaks something: that's right, break up the happy home!

2. *Mariage à la colle*, concubinage.

3. (Schoolboy slang.) Detention. *Le maître m'a fichu une colle*, the master kept me in.

4. Difficult question put to a pupil or candidate; searcher, poser. *Poser, pousser, une colle*, to put such a question.

coller. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To put, give. *Collez ça dans un coin*, shove it in a corner. *Colle-toi là!* plank yourself there! park yourself there! *Collez ça où vous voudrez*, stick it down anywhere. *Je lui collerai mon poing sur la figure*, I'll paste him one on the jaw. *Colle-toi ça dans le cornet*, just eat that, swallow that. *Ça m'a collé la fièvre, une migraine, etc.*, it gave me a temperature, a headache, etc.

(b) (Schoolboy's word) To keep in.

(c) (Schoolboy's word) To pluck, floor, plough, spin. *Se faire coller au bachot*, to get plucked in the baccalauréat.

2. *vb.pr.* To start living with a mistress.

3. *vb.intr.* (a) To get on. *Ça colle?* how are you getting on (in health, business, etc.)? *Ça ne colle pas, tous les deux*, they don't get on with each other. *Entendu, ça colle!* agreed! granted! done!

(b) (Cycling) To follow a leader rim against rim. *Coller au train*, to follow closely the leading team.



collet-monté, *adj.* Puritanical, tight-laced.

collignon, *sb.m.* Driver, cabby, Jehu.

collocher, *vb.intr.* = COLLER 2.

colloquer, *vb.tr.* = COLLER 1. *Il m'a colloqué les consommations*, he made me pay for the round of drinks. *Colloquer une pièce fausse*, to palm off a false coin.

colombin, *sb.m.* Excrement. 1. *Être de colombin*, to be on latrine fatigue.

2. *Avoir les colombins*, to funk. (*Cp.* COLIQUE.)

colon, *sb.m.* 1. (= colonel) 'The old man.'

2. Familiar vocative in exclamative sentences, such as *eh bien, mon colon!* well, old cock! old bean! *Mon pauvre colon, t'as pas de veine*, poor old chap, that's rotten luck.

colonne, *sb.m.* 1. *Eau de colonne*, pop. pron. of *eau de Cologne*.

2. *Avoir chié la colonne*, see CHIER 1 (*e*).

coloquinte, *sb.f.* Head, nut. (*Cp.* BOULE.)

coltiner. 1. *vb.tr.* To carry heavy burdens (like a *coltineur*, dock-labourer).

2. *vb.pr.* To fight, wrestle; to tramp wearily along.

combien, *adv.* (Used as a *sb.m.*) *Nous sommes le combien?* what is the date? (This so-called ungrammatical expression is now in general use in spoken French.)

combientième, *adj.* *Ça fait la combientième consommation que tu prends?* how many drinks did you have? (*Lit.* the how manyth drink is that one?)

combinaise, *sb.f.* (= *combinaison*) See COMBINE.

combine, *sb.f.* (= *combinaison*) Scheme, arrangement, trick, cunning device. *Une bonne combine*, a clever move. *Il connaît les combines*, he knows a trick or two, he knows the ropes, he's up to snuff. *Je ne marche pas dans la combine*, I'm not on.

comédie, *sb.f.* *Être à la comédie*, to be out of work. *Envoyer quelqu'un à la comédie*, to cause somebody to be out of work.

comète, *sb.f.* 1. Former name of the game of cards now called *manille*, hence *carabin de la comète*, sharper.

2. Vagrant, tramp. *Filer la comète*, to sleep in the open air.

comme, *conj.* Substituted for *que* after a comparative. *Aussi grand comme son père*, as tall as his father.

comment, *interj.* *Et comment!* sure! of course! not half! *Es-tu*

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content?—*Et comment!* are you pleased?—You bet! *U.S.*:
And how!

commerçant, e, adj. *Être commerçant*, to be a clever salesman.
Ils sont commerçants dans ce pays-là, does not mean they carry
on trades in that country, but 'they understand business.'

commission, sb.f. *Faire une petite commission*, to go to see, to
call on, Mrs. Jones.

compliment, sb.m. *Rengainer son compliment*, not to say any more.
Vraiment? oh, alors je rengaine mon compliment! is that so? well
then, I'll drop the matter, I won't say any more about it.
(i.e., I see that my proposal was not to the point, my advice
is uncalled for, etc.)

comprenette, sb.f. Understanding. *N'avoir pas la comprenette
facile*, to be rather dense.

comprendre, vb.intr. *Je comprends!* exclamation denoting
emphatic affirmation. *Y vas-tu?—Je comprends!* are you going
there?—I should think so! You bet! Rather!

comprenoire, sb.f. *Avoir la comprenoire difficile*, not to under-
stand easily.

compte, sb.m. *Rendre des comptes*, to vomit.

compte-gouttes, sb.m. *Au compte-gouttes*, in exceedingly small
quantities, with the greatest parsimony, in dribblets.

con. 1. sb.m. (a) The . . . monosyllable. One sometimes avoids
pronouncing the word by spelling it, in the expression *un
C.O.N. pantoufle*, a bally fool.

(b) Noodle, juggins.

2. *adj.* Silly, gullible. *Il est con comme la lune*, he's a bloody
fool.

condé, sb.m. 1. Scheme, arrangement, move.

2. Special agreement between the police and a criminal
who promises to turn informer.

conduite, sb.f. *S'acheter une conduite*, to settle down after leading
a fast life.

confondre, vb.tr. To mix up, make a mistake about; *U.S.*: to get
something wrong. *Faudrait pas confondre* (often *autour avec
alentour*), I want you to know the facts exactly as they are.
(Practically used as a form of asseveration.) *Cette bague-là
m'a coûté deux mille balles, faudrait pas confondre!* this ring cost
me two thousand francs, that's a fact! and no mistake!

- congaïe**, *sb.f.* Native girl of Indo-China. (Espec. as mistress of a European.)
- conjungo**, *sb.m.* Marriage. *Il n'en pince pas pour le conjungo*, he does not want to get married, he's not keen on getting spliced.
- connaissance**, *sb.f.* Best girl, mistress.
- connaître**, *vb.tr.* 1. *La connaître (dans les coins)*, to be cute, to know the ropes, to know what is what, to be up to snuff. *Il la connaît*, (sometimes *et il la pratique* is added), he is a knowing one.
2. *Ça me connaît*, I am a dab at that. *Les cartes, ça me connaît!* I'm an old hand at cards.
- conneau**, *sb.m.* and *adj.* = CON 1 (a), 2. *Du conneau*, nickname for a duffer.
- connerie**, *sb.f.* 1. Stupidity.
2. Silly trick or talk, nonsense, blunder. *Quelle connerie!* what tommy rot! *Tout ça, c'est des conneries*, that's all bosh.
- conscience**, *sb.f.* Jocularly substituted for a stomach in the expression, *se mettre quelque chose sur la conscience*. (Chiefly applied to somebody having made himself proud: *Qu'est-ce qu'il s'est mis sur la conscience?*)
- consolation**, *sb.f.* Brandy. *Un verre de consolation*, a glass of brandy. (*Cp.* a drop of comfort.)
- consomme**, *sb.f.* (= *consommation*) Drink (as taken in a bar).
- contre**, *sb.m.* (At bridge) Doubling.
- contrer**, *vb.tr.* (At bridge) To double.
- contreficher**, *se*, *vb.pr.* Intensive form of SE FICHER. *Je m'en contrefiche*, I don't care a damn for it.
- convalo.** 1. *sb.m.* Convalescent.
2. *sb.f.* (= *convalescence*) Sick-leave.
- converse**, *sb.f.* *Être à la converse*, to feel like chattering.
- copahu**, *sb.m.* Hospital attendant.
- copain**, *s.m.* Pal, chum.
- copé**, *sb.f.* (= *coopérative*) *La copé*, the cooperative society or store.
- copier**, *vb.tr.* *Celle-là, tu me la copieras!* ironical stock phrase meaning, this idea of yours is very clever indeed, you must copy it out for me.
- copine**, *sb.f.* Fem. of COPAIN.
- copurchic**, *adj.* Quite chic, ultra smart.

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coq, *sb.m.* *Être comme un coq en pâte*, to be in clover, to live like a fighting-cock.

coque, *sb.f.* *Être à la coque*, to be tip-top, *Al.* *On a fait un dîner à la coque!* we had a slap-up dinner!

coqueluche, *sb.f.* *Être la coqueluche des dames*, to be a great favourite among ladies.

coquillard, *sb.m.* Eye, in the expression, *s'en tamponner le coquillard*, not to care a jot for it. (A fanciful variant of *s'en battre l'œil*.)

coquin de sort, *interj.* An oath of vague meaning used at Marseilles: by Gad! by Jove!

corbeau, *sb.m.* Nickname for a priest. (From his black cassock.) (*Cp.* chimney-sweep, crow, black-coal, black-fly = parson, clergyman.)

corder, *vb.intr.* *Corder avec*, to hit it off with. *On corde bien nous deux mon frangin*, we get on swimmingly my brother and I.

cornard, *sb.m.* and *adj.* 1. Cuckold.

2. = GAFFE, TUILE.

cornes, *sb.f.pl.* *Porter des cornes*, to be a cuckold. *Faire pousser des cornes*, to cuckold.

cornet, *sb.m.* Stomach, throat. *S'enfiler quelque chose dans le cornet*, to put something down one's gullet.

cornichon, *sb.m.* 1. Silly fellow, muff.

2. Candidate for *Saint-Cyr*.

corps, *sb.m.* *Un drôle de corps*, a queer bird.

corriger, *vb.tr.* To inflict severe blows (on opponent in boxing), to punish.

cossard, e, *sb.m.* and *adj.* Lazy fellow, sluggard.

cosse, *sb.f.* Laziness. *Avoir la cosse*, to be lazy, not to feel up to work.

costau, costaud, costeau. 1. *sb.m.* (a) Pimp.

(b) Strong, strapping, hefty, fellow; clever fellow.

2. *adj.* Strong, clever, well off.

cote, *sb.f.* *Avoir la cote*, to be thought highly of (esp. by examiners or superiors). *La cote d'amour*, favourable opinion enjoyed by a person (esp. a candidate in an examination or in a public competition) on account of his non-technical qualities (good looks or breeding). *Il est calé, mais il ne sera pas*

reçu; il n'a pas la cote d'amour, he is a clever fellow, but he will not pass; he is not persona grata, he has no prestige.

côte, *sb.f.* 1. Rib. *Avoir les côtes en long*, to be a sluggard, to have no hinge in one's back.

2. *Être à la côte*, to be hard up, on the rocks, on one's beam ends.

côtelette, *sb.f.* *Pisser une côtelette*, to bring forth a child.

coterie, *sb.f.* Only used as a slang word in the call: *Eh, la coterie!* hullo, you chaps! hello, everybody! (*Cp. U.S.: gang.*)

coton, *sb.m.* 1. Difficulty, trouble, obstacle, danger. *Il a accepté, mais il y a eu du coton*, he accepted, but it was hard to persuade him, there was a bit of a fuss.

2. (Aviation) The clouds.

3. *Filer un mauvais coton*, to be in danger of dying from ill-health, to have had one's notice to quit.

couche, *sb.f.* *Avoir une couche (de bêtise)* understood), to be extremely dense. *Quelle couche!* what a chump!

coucher, *vb.intr.* 1. *Coucher avec une femme*, to have sexual intercourse with a woman.

2. *Un nom à coucher dehors* (sometimes *avec un billet de logement*), to have a name hard to pronounce.

couci-couça, *adv.* So-so. *Comment allez-vous?—Couci-couça*, how are you?—So-so.

coucou, *interj.* Peep-bo.

coude, *sb.m.* 1. *Lever le coude*, to lift, crook, one's elbow, to make free with the bottle.

2. *Lâche-moi le coude!* leave me alone! don't bother me!

couenne, *sb.f.* (*Lit.* rind of bacon.) 1. (a) Skin.

(b) Stupid fellow.

2. *adj.* Stupid. *Ce qu'il est couenne*, what a bally fool!

couic, *sb.m.* Little cry, squeak, esp. as of someone suffocating. *Il n'a pas fait couic*, he died at once, he was killed on the spot, he never cheeped.

couille, *sb.f.* 1. Testicle, ball.

2. = COUILLONNADE.

couillon. 1. *sb.m.* (a) Stupid fellow.

(b) Coward, milksop.

2. *adj.* (a) Stupid.

(b) Cowardly.

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couillonnade, *sb.f.* Silly trick, silly words, blunder, humbug.

1. *Dire des couillonnades*, (a) to bandy jests, (b) to talk rot, balls.

2. *Faire une couillonnade*, to make a bloomer.

couillonner, *vb.tr.* To mystify, cod, hoax.

coule, *sb.f.* *Être à la coule*, to know the ropes, to be in the know, to know what's what, to be up to snuff. *Un mec à la coule*, a downy bird.

coulé, *e, adj.* 1. (Of a teacher) Unable to make himself obeyed; ragged by his pupils.

2. (Generally) *C'est un homme coulé*, it's all up with him, he's done for, U.S.: he's sunk.

couler, *vb.tr.* *Se la couler douce*, to take it easy, to have a soft time of it.

couleur, *sb.f.* 1. *Être à la couleur*, to be able to answer relevantly, to be in the know. (*Lit.* to be able to follow suit, at cards.)

2. *En dire de toutes les couleurs*, to abuse, to slang. *Il m'en a dit de toutes les couleurs*, he called me all sorts of names, he hauled me over the coals.

3. *J'en ai entendu de toutes les couleurs*. (a) I was properly slanged. (b) I heard all sorts of smutty yarns. (c) *J'en ai entendu de toutes les couleurs sur votre compte*, I've heard you maligned in every possible way.

4. *Il en a vu de toutes les couleurs*, he has had all sorts of experiences (chiefly unpleasant ones), he's been through the mill, he's had a rough time of it, he's roughed it a good deal.

coup, *sb.m.* 1. *Ne pas en fiché, fiché, foutre, un coup*, not to do a stroke of work.

2. *Valoir le coup*, to be worth while.

3. *Faire le coup du lapin à quelqu'un*, (a) to murder someone (*lit.* like a rabbit, by a blow on the nape); (b) to give someone the finishing stroke (*fig.*).

4. *Faire le coup du père François*, to murder (*esp.* by strangulation).

5. *Faire les cent coups*, to play all sorts of pranks. *Il a fait les cent coups avant son mariage*, he led a fast life before his marriage.

6. *Se donner un coup de torchon*, to have a set-to.

7. *Faire un coup de tête*, to play the giddy goat, to act on a sudden impulse.

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8. *Être aux cents coups*, (a) to feel quite indignant, to be very cross, upset; (b) to be at one's wits' end.

9. *Faire un sale coup à quelqu'un*, to play a dirty trick upon someone. *Ça c'est un sale coup* (sometimes *pour la fanfare* is added), that's rotten luck, a bad job, what a sell!

10. *Un coup dur*, (a) a hard blow; anything hard to stand, the brunt of an attack; (b) a stroke of bad luck.

11. *Avoir le coup pour faire quelque chose*, to have the knack of (doing) something, to be a dab at something.

12. *Du coup*, now, after that, on second thoughts, at last. *Du coup, je me demande si c'est bien lui*, after all, I wonder whether he is the man.

13. *Tenir le coup*, (a) (at poker) to 'see' one's opponent; (b) to be able to withstand (attack, hardship, etc.).

14. *En mettre (jeter) un coup*, to make an effort, to put a jerk in it.

15. *Monter le coup à quelqu'un*, to deceive somebody, to take somebody in. *On vous a monté le coup*, they have coddled you, you've been bamboozled, you've been had.

16. *Se monter le coup*, to be too sanguine in one's expectations, to deceive oneself. *Ne te monte pas le coup*, don't get excited, don't kid yourself.

17. *Avoir un coup de sirop*, to be drunk, squiffy.

18. *Un coup de tréfalgar*, a startling event, a (somewhat unexpected) disturbance. *Il y aura un coup de tréfalgar*, there'll be ructions.

19. *Avoir un coup de marteau*, to be daft, barmy on the crumpet.

20. *Avoir le coup de bambou*, same meaning as 19.

21. *Coup de pied de Vénus*, venereal disease.

22. *Ne pas se donner de coups de pieds*, to boast. *Il ne se donne pas de coups de pieds, celui-là!* that fellow thinks no small beer of himself!

23. *Être là pour un coup*, to be ready to help. *T'inquiète pas mon vieux, je suis là pour un coup*, don't you worry, old chap, I'll stand by you.

coupe, sb.f. 1. (= *apparence*) *Il a la coupe!* (ironical) just see how awkward he looks! doesn't he look a regular guy! *Il a une sale coupe*, I don't like the cut of his jib.

2. *Faire sauter la coupe*, to slip the cut, (a card-sharper's trick).

coupe-choux, *sb.m.* Sword, cheese-knife, cheese-toaster, etc.

couper, *vb.intr.* 1. *Couper dans le pont*, to be deceived, to fall into the trap. (*Lit.* to cut the pack of cards at the bridge, *i.e.*, just where a sharper has slightly bent it to decide the deal to his advantage.) *Ne pas couper dans quelque chose*, not to believe something. *Ne pas y couper*, not to be taken in.

2. *Couper à quelque chose*, to manage to avoid something. *Couper à une corvée*, to dodge a fatigue-duty. *Ne pas y couper de quelque chose*, to be in for something. *Il n'y coupera pas de huit jours d'arrêts*, he's in for eight days' C.B.

3. *Ça te la coupe!* that's a clincher for you! that knocks you!
courante, *sb.f.* Diarrhoea, jerry-go-nimble.

couratter, *vb.intr.* To gad about with, or after, one of the other sex, to gallivant.

coureur, euse, *sb.f.m.* Gay dog, woman of loose life, fly-by-night.

courir, *vb.intr.* 1. *Courir sur le ciboulot, sur l'haricot, sur le système, à quelqu'un*, to bore somebody. *Il me court, ce mec-là*, that beggar puts my back up, gets on my nerves.

2. To lead a fast life.

3. *Tu peux toujours courir!* don't you wish you may get it! not likely!

court, e, *adj.* *Avoir la peau trop courte*, to be lazy.

courtines, *sb.f.* Horse-races.

couru, *p.p.* *C'est couru*, (*lit.* the race is run beforehand) it's a dead cert; *U.S.*: it's a cinch. *C'était couru*, it was all cut and dried.

couvert, *sb.m.* *Mettre le couvert*, to lay down a rug on which a game of (faked) dice is played (in clandestine dens).

couverte, *sb.f.* (= *couverture*) Blanket. *Passer à la couverte*, to toss in a blanket.

crabe, *sb.m.* Worthless fellow, dud.

craché, *adj.* *C'est son père (etc.) tout craché*, he's very like his father, he's the dead spit of his father.

cracher, *vb.tr.* 1. *Ne pas cracher sur quelque chose*, not to turn one's nose up at something.

2. To pay, to cough up. *Il a fallu cracher*, I had to fork out, to stump up. *Je lui ai fait cracher cent francs*, I screwed a hundred francs out of him.



crachoir, *sb.m.* *Tenir le cracher*, to talk, speechify, chatter. *C'est toujours lui qui tient le crachoir*, nobody can get a word in edgeways.

crampon, *sb.m.* and *adj.* Buttonholer, boring person, hanger-on, burr, limpet.

cramponner, *vb.tr.* To buttonhole, bore, freeze on to.

cramser, **crampser**, *vb.intr.* (= CLAMECER) To die, peg out, etc. (*Cp.* ARME.)

cran, *sb.m.* 1. Military punishment. *Attraper quatre jours de cran*, to get four days' C.B.

2. Pluck, dash. *Avoir du cran*, to be plucky, to have lots of backbone.

3. *Être à cran*, to be in a very bad temper, to have one's monkey up.

crâne, *sb.m.* 1. *Bourrer le crâne à quelqu'un*, to deceive somebody by empty talk, false or stupid statements. *Tu nous bourres le crâne*, you're stuffing us. (See BOURRER.)

2. *Un crâne*, a convict. (From his having his hair cropped.)

crâner, *vb.intr.* To swagger, to put on side. *Ne crâne donc pas!* don't you come the heavy with me!

crâneur. 1. *sb.m.* Swaggerer.

2. *adj.* Swaggering.

crapaud, *sb.m.* Child, brat.

crape, *sb.f.* = CRAPULE.

crapouillot, *sb.m.* 1. Trench mortar.

2. Trench-mortar shell.

crapoussin, *sb.m.* 1. Short, dwarfish, fellow.

2. Inexperienced young fellow. *Voyez-vous ce crapoussin qui veut en remonter à son curé!* just look at Johnny Raw trying to teach his grandmother to suck eggs.

crapule. 1. *sb.f.* Low-minded, nasty man; rotter. *C'est une crapule, ne vous y fiez pas*, he is a bad egg, a bad lot, don't you trust him.

2. *adj.* Nasty, underhand. *Un coup crapule*, a mean, dirty, treacherous trick.

crapulos, *sb.m.* Pseudo-Spanish appellation of a cheap cigar, a stinkador.

craque, *sb.f.* Venial lie, cram, taradiddle. *Conter des craques*, to tell fibs.

crasse, *sb.f.* Unkind, mischievous, mean, act. *Faire une crasse à quelqu'un*, to behave unkindly, meanly, to someone, to play a dirty trick on one.

cré, *adj.* = **SAGRÉ**.

crèche, *sb.f.* 1. House.

2. Room.

crêcher, *vb.intr.* To live. *Où crêches-tu?* where do you hang out?

crédieu, *interj.* A mild form of **sacré** (*nom de*) *Dieu*.

crêmerie, *sb.f.* Small restaurant (where not only cream, milk, and the like may be had, but often any kind of food). *Changer de crêmerie*, to go to another place, to go elsewhere (without any reference to the proper meaning of the word).

crêpage, *sb.f.* *Crêpage de chignon*, fight between women. (*Cp. CRÊPER.*)

crêpe, *sb.f.* *Faire la crêpe*, to capsize, turn turtle. (Of a motor-car, *Lit.* to be turned over like a pancake.)

crêper, *vb.tr.* *Se crêper le chignon*, (of women) to fight, to have a set-to, to quarrel.

cresson, *sb.m.* 1. Hair. *N'avoir plus de cresson sur la fontaine*, to have lost one's thatch, to be bald.

2. Empty talk, humbug. *J'aime pas les cressons!* I don't like nonsense, I've no use for ballyhoo! (*Cp. BOBARD.*)

creusant, *e, adj.* Difficult, puzzling, entailing a good deal of hard thinking.

creuser, *vb.tr.* 1. To give an appetite. *Ça creuse de marcher comme ça*, walking like that makes you feel empty, gives you a hollow feeling.

2. *Se creuser la tête, le ciboulot*, to think hard, to try to understand, to rack one's brains.

creux, *adj.* *Avoir le nez creux*, to be shrewd, up to snuff. *Je m'en doutais, j'ai eu le nez creux*, I thought as much, I had seen it coming.

crevaison, *sb.f.* 1. Death. (Action of **CREVER** 1.)

2. Very hard work. *C'est une crevaison de travailler comme ça*, it takes it out of you working like that.

3. (Cycling) Puncture.

crevant, *e, adj.* 1. Very comical, screamingly funny. *Une histoire crevante*, a killing story. (*Cp. BIDONNANT.*)

2. Very tiring.



crève, *sb.f.* *Avoir la crève*, to be very ill. *C'est la crève ici!* expresses that the place is bad in any way; we are starved to death, etc. *Je vais attraper la crève!* I'm sure to catch my death here! (Stock phrase used when a place is bad, too cold, too hot, stuffy, etc.)

crevé, *sb.m.* *Petit crevé*, dandy, fop.

crever. 1. *vb.intr.* (a) To die, peg out. *Tu peux crever!* (often also *la bouche ouverte*) expresses emphatic refusal. *Tu peux crever, je ne te prêterai pas un sou!* go to blazes, I won't lend you a penny!

(b) (Cycling) To have a puncture.

2. *vb.tr.* To kill. *Je le crèverai*, I'll do for him. *La crever*, to be starved to death, to be very hungry. *Avez-vous quelque chose à bouffer? on la crève*, have you got some grub? we are famished.

3. *vb.pr.* (a) To toil, to exert oneself, to wear oneself to a shadow. *Je me suis crevé dix ans dans cette boîte-là*, I slaved for ten years in that beastly hole.

(b) *Se crever (de rire)*, to laugh uproariously. *On s'est crevé*, we had a good laugh. (Cp. CREVANT.)

cri, *sb.m.* 1. *Dernier cri*, in the latest fashion. *C'est dernier cri*, it's quite up-to-date, the last word.

2. *N'ayez plus peur, la bête a jeté son cri*, jocular stock phrase said when a person has yawned or sneezed noisily.

3. *C'est du cri*, it's all put on, he's shamming.

cric, *sb.m.* Brandy.

cricri, *sb.m.* Wizen little woman. (Lean and parched like a cricket. Sometimes *ravageur* is added, perhaps suggested by the destruction worked by crickets, and denoting in the woman a tendency to bustling, fussy activity.)

crin, *sb.m.* *Être comme un crin*, to be as cross as two sticks.

criquer, *se, vb.pr.* To make off, to make tracks.

cristau, *sb.m.* Washing soda.

cristi, *interj.* Abbreviation of SACRISTI.

croc, *sb.m.* Tooth, grinder.

croche, *sb.f.* Hand.

crochet, *sb.m.* (Boxing) 'Hook.'

crocheter, *vb.tr.* (Boxing) To strike with a 'hook,' to hook.

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croire. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) *Je vous crois!* expresses emphatic acquiescence: I should jolly well think so!

(b) *Croyez-vous qu'il est rentré à quatre heures du matin!* just fancy, he came home at four in the morning!

(c) Also used as an answer with the force of 'indeed!' or 'isn't it?' etc. *Quel sale temps!*—*Croyez-vous!* what beastly weather!—Quite so! right you are! I should think so!

(d) *Il faut croire*, of course. *Elle est en deuil; elle a donc perdu quelqu'un?*—*Il faut croire*, she is in mourning; has she lost some relation?—Very likely, presumably.

2. *vb.pr.* *S'en croire*, to have too good opinion of oneself, to think no small beer of oneself.

croix, *sb.f.* 1. *Avoir la croix de sa mère*, (of a girl) to look innocent.

2. *Gagner la croix de bois*, to be killed in battle.

3. A gullible person, one who does not know the ropes.

(Cp. BILLE, PLOUM.)

croquant, *sb.m.* Country clown, clod-hopper.

croquenot, *sb.m.* Shoe.

croque-notes, *sb.m.* Musician.

croquer, *vb.tr.* To arrest, nab, collar.

croquignole, *sb.f.* Blow, cuff, slap. (Cp. BEIGNE, PAIN.)

crosser, *vb.intr.* To swagger, cut a dash, show off.

crotte. 1. *sb.f.* Dung, turd. *Crottes de chocolat*, chocolates. *Ma crotte*, my darling.

2. *interj.* A mild form of MERDE.

croûte, *sb.f.* 1. Food. (a) *Casser la croûte*, to have a snack.

(b) *Faire sa croûte*, to cook for oneself.

(c) *Gagner sa croûte*, to make a living.

2. Bad picture, a daub.

3. Incapable fellow, dud.

4. *S'ennuyer comme une croûte de pain derrière un mur*, to be bored to death.

croûter, *vb.tr.* and *intr.* To eat, to feed.

croûton, *sb.m.* *Un vieux croûton*, an old crock.

cruche, *sb.f.* and *adj.* Silly person, noodle.

cueillir, *vb.tr.* *Se faire cueillir*, to be caught, to get nabbed.

qui, *pr.dem.* Pop. pron. of *celui*.



cuiller, *sb.f.* 1. Hand. *Serrer la cuiller à quelqu'un*, to shake hands with someone, to shake someone by the flipper.

2. *Ne pas y aller avec le dos de la cuiller*, to flatter unduly, to lay it on thick, with a trowel.

3. *Être à ramasser avec* (or *à*) *la cuiller*, to be flabby, to have no 'go' at all. (*Lit.* to be fit to be picked up with a spoon, like something liquid or pulpy.)

cuir, *sb.m.* 1. Skin, bacon. *Tanner le cuir à quelqu'un*, to tan someone's hide, to give someone a good thrashing, a hiding. (*Cp. donner une tannée.*)

2. Abbr. of *cuirassier*. *Le X^e cuir.*, the Xth regiment of cuirassiers.

cuirassé, *adj.* Very drunk. (*Cp. BLINDÉ I.*)

cuisiner, *vb.tr.* 1. To pump information out of a prisoner.

2. To cook accounts.

cuisse, *sb.f.* *Avoir la cuisse gaie, légère*, to be a loose woman, a merry leg.

cuistance, *sb.f.* Cookery.

cuistancier, *sb.m.* Cook.

cuistaud, **cuisteau**, **cuisto**, *sb.m.* Cook.

cuit, *e*, *p.p.* 1. Drunk, tight.

2. Lost. *Je suis cuit*, it's all up with me. (*Cp. FRIT.*)

cuite, *sb.f.* *Avoir, prendre, la cuite*, to be, to get drunk.

cuiter. 1. *vb.tr.* To make drunk.

2. *vb.pr.* To get drunk. *Il se cuite*, he's a boozier.

cul. 1. *sb.m.* Buttocks, bum, arse (loosely, sexual parts of man or woman). (a) *Tirer au cul*, to dodge duties, to shirk, to swing the lead. *Trois pouces de jambes et le cul tout de suite*, expression denoting a dwarfish person, all body and no legs.

(b) *Avoir quelqu'un au (dans le) cul*, to be quite fed up with somebody.

(c) *En avoir plein le cul*, to be quite fed up with something.

(d) *Tu peux te le (la, les) mettre au cul*, I don't care a damn for it.

(e) *Pisser au cul de quelqu'un*, to hate and despise somebody.

(f) *Se démancher, se décarcasser, se dévisser, le trou du cul*, to exert oneself.

(g) *Jusqu'à la saint trou-du-cul*, world without end.

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- (h) *Lécher le cul*, to toady to, to flatter, suck up to. (Cp. LÈCHE-CUL.)
- (i) *Avoir du poil (des couilles) au cul*, to be plucky.
- (j) *Gros-cul*, coarse army tobacco.
2. *sb.m. and adj.* Simpleton, juggins, fathead. (Cp. CON.)
- Culs rouges*, the Chasseurs. (Cp. the Cherry bums.)
- culbutant**, *sb.m.* Trousers. (Cp. the 'old bumbags'.)
- culbute**, *sb.f.* Trousers.
- culot**, *sb.m.* Cheek, sauce, pluck, brass. *C'était un certain culot de votre part*, it was pretty cool of you. *Quel culot!* there's a nerve!
- culotte**, *sb.f.* 1. *Une vieille culotte de peau*, an old rough and rather stupid officer, an old crock.
2. *Prendre une culotte.* (a) To get drunk, tight, sprung, etc.
- (b) To lose at cards, to take a knock.
- culotté, e**, *adj.* 1. Cheeky.
2. Coloured (chiefly of a pipe).
- culotter**. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) *Culotter une pipe*, to colour a pipe.
- (b) *Culotter l'anglais*, to swot at English.
2. *vb.pr.* To booze.
- cul-terreux**, *sb.m.* Peasant, clodhopper, bumpkin.
- curé**, *sb.m.* Any priest (and not necessarily a *curé* or parish priest, properly so-called).
- cure-dents**, *sb.m.* (Lit. toothpick.) Bayonet. (Cp. FOURCHETTE.)
- curieux**, *sb.m.* Examining magistrate.
- cuterie**, *sb.f.* 1. Silliness.
2. Silly thing or talk.
- cyrard**, *sb.m.* Cadet at *Saint-Cyr*. (Cp. CORNICION.)

D

- D.** *Système D*, system consisting in showing resourcefulness under any difficult condition. *Employer le système D*, to shift for one-self even by using unscrupulous means, to wangle. (D stands for *débrouille*, from *se débrouiller*, or for *se démerder*, to manage to get along, to show resourcefulness.)
- dab**, *sb.m.* Father.



dabesse, *sb.f.* Mother.

Dache, *proper name.* *Aller à dache*, to go to hell. *Envoyer à dache*, to send to the devil. *Va le dire à dache!* go to hell! (The name *Dache* is found in a traditional song of the Zouaves. One sometimes says *envoyer chez Dache, le perruquier des zouaves.*)

dactylo, *sb.f.* 1. Abbr. of *dactylographie*, typewriting.

2. Abbr. of *dactylographe*, typist.

daim, *sb.m.* Simpleton, dullard. *C'est un vrai daim*, he's a regular nanny-goat.

dalle, **dal**, *adv.* Nothing. Only used in the expression *n'entraver que dalle*. *Je n'entrave que dalle*, I don't understand, I can't make it out.

dalle, *sb.f.* Throat. *Se rincer la dalle*, to wet one's whistle, to have a wet. *Rincer la dalle à quelqu'un*, to stand somebody a drink. *Avoir la dalle en pente*, to be fond of a drink, to booze.

dalzàr, *sb.m.* (= FALZAR) Trousers, bags.

dame, *sb.f.* 1. Wife. (Vulgar people think it rude to say *votre femme*, and make it a rule to substitute *votre dame*. A shop-keeper does not even say *ma femme*, but *Madame X*. A workman would say *la bourgeoise*, *la patronne*, 'the missus.' *Cp.* your good lady.)

2. *Dame blanche*, bottle of white wine. (*Cp.* FILLE, FILLETTE, MOMINETTE.)

danger, *sb.m.* *Il n'y a pas de danger!* it's not likely, never in my life! *Allez-vous sortir par un temps pareil?—Pas de danger!* are you going out in such weather?—No fear!

danse, *sb.f.* Thrashing, licking. *Il a reçu une bonne danse*, he got a good hiding.

danser, *vb.tr.* *La danser*, to be thrashed. *Tu vas la danser*, I am going to give you what for.

danseuse, *sb.f.* *Aller, piler, en danseuse*, of a cyclist, to force his machine along with spasmodic efforts, by thrusting alternately all his weight on each pedal without sitting on the saddle, usually when riding uphill.

dare-dare, *adv.* Quick, in less than no time, like a shot. *Il va falloir s'y mettre dare-dare*, we'll have to buck up.

dariole, *sb.f.* Slap in the face.

daron, *sb.m.* Father.

daronne, sb.f. Mother.

datte, sb.f. 1. *Des dattes!* emphatic refusal. *C'est comme des dattes*, it is impossible to get it, don't you wish you may get it, nothing doing.

2. *Ne pas en ficher une datte*, not to work at all.

dauphin, sb.m. (= *dos fin*) Pimp.

débagouler, vb.tr. To utter (esp. insults).

déballage, sb.m. Unpacking. *Quel déballage!* what an airing! she's hawking her meat about (of a fat woman scantily dressed).

déballer, vb.tr. To unpack, show, reveal.

débarbouiller, se, vb.pr. To shift for one's self, to manage to get out of some trouble by one's own means. *S'il a fait des bêtises qu'il se débarbouille*, if he has got into a fix, let him get out of it as best he can.

débarquer, vb.tr. *Débarquer quelqu'un d'un poste*, to dismiss someone from a situation, to give someone the sack.

débarrasser, vb.tr. To procure abortion. *Elle s'est fait débarrasser*, she had a (wilful) miscarriage.

débec(que)tant, e, adj. Disgusting, sickening.

débec(que)ter, vb.tr. To vomit. *Je les débècquète* (pron. *débecte*), I'm fed up with them, they make me spew.

débinage, sb.m. Calumny, slandering, running down.

débine, sb.f. *Être dans la débine*, to be in straitened circumstances, down on one's luck, stony broke.

débiner, vb.tr. To criticize. *Il ne débène jamais ses copains*, he never runs his chums down.

débiner, se, vb.pr. To make off, to hop it.

débineur, euse, sb.m.f. and adj. Fond of running people down.

débloquer, vb.intr. = DÉBOURRER.

débouurre, sb.m. Evacuating the bowels. *Envoyer au débouurre*, to send to the right-about.

débouurrer, vb.intr. To evacuate the bowels, to rear.

déboutonner, se, vb.pr. To unbosom oneself, to disclose one's feelings.

débrouillard, e, adj. Able to shift for himself, resourceful, up to snuff. *Il est débrouillard*, he has no flies on him, he knows what's what.



débrouiller, se, vb.pr. To shift for oneself. *Débrouillez-vous!* that's your look-out!

décaniller, vb.intr. 1. To make off. *Veux-tu décaniller de là!* get away! clear out! be off!

2. To get out of bed, to show a leg.

décarcasser, se, vb.pr. To make great efforts, to exert oneself.

décarrade, sb.f. Leaving a place. *A la décarrade*, when we clear out.

décarrer. 1. *vb.intr.* (To get out of a *CARRÉE*.) To move, flit.

2. To go, to leave the place, to hop it, to pack one's traps and be off.

décati, adj. (*p.p.* of *décatis*, to sponge, to take the gloss off a new cloth.) Enfeebled, altered, by age or illness. *Elle est bien décatie*, she looks worn. *Pas trop décatie*, not so dusty.

décesser, vb.intr. (= *cesser*) To cease. *Il ne décesse pas de parler*, he keeps on talking.

dèche, sb.f. 1. Misery, distress. *Dans la dèche*, hard up, stony broke. *Battre la dèche*, to be hard up.

2. Expense. *Il n'y a pas de dèche*, that won't cost much. *Qu'est-ce qu'il faudra lâcher comme dèche?* what shall we have to spend? what will the damage be?

décher, vb.intr. To pay.

déchiré, e, adj. (Only in negative sentences.) *Elle n'est pas trop déchirée*, she is rather nice, not so dusty.

décoction, sb.f. Great quantity. *Une décoction de coups de poings*, a shower of blows.

décollé, e, adj. Feeble, thin, in a bad way.

décoller. 1. *vb.intr.* (a) To die, peg out, etc. (*Cp.* ARME.)

(b) *Ne pas décoller*, not to go, to freeze on to. (*Cp.* a sticker.)

(c) *Sans décoller*, at a stretch.

2. *vb.pr.* To become old, feeble, to be in a bad way.

décolleté, e, adj. *Une histoire décolletée*, a broad story.

déconner, vb.intr. To talk nonsense. (From *CON*, *q.v.*)

décor, sb.m. *Rentrer dans le décor*, (of a motor-car) to come into collision (*lit.* to pitch into the scenery).

décrocher, vb.tr. 1. To get (with an implication of effort, difficulty). *Il a fini par décrocher son bachot*, he managed to pass his *baccalauréat* at last.

2. To redeem something from pawn.
3. *Décrocher ses tableaux*, to pick one's nose.

décrochez-moi-ça, *sb.m.* 1. Clothes bought at ready-made tailors' shops, reach-me-downs, hand-me-downs.

2. Shop where ready-made clothes are sold.

décrotter, *vb.tr.* To do. *Décrottez-moi ça et rapidement!* get that done and be quick, look sharp, about it!

décuiter, *vb.tr.* To sober. (*Cp.* CUIRE.)

déculotter, *se*, *vb.pr.* = *SE DÉBOUTTONNER*.

dedans, *adv.* 1. *Mettre, fiche, fiche, foutre, dedans.* (a) To deceive, to take in.

- (b) To put in clink.

2. Used as a postposition. *Il lui a rentré dedans*, he pitched into him. (*Cp.* NEZ 12.)

3. Used as preposition. *Dedans la chambre*, in the room.

Dédé. 1. *proper name.* Pop. dim. of *André*.

2. *sb.m.* Bum, botty (children's speech).

défendre. 1. *vb.tr.* To challenge. *Ah ça, par exemple, je vous défends bien de le refaire!* I say, you do that again if you can! I bet you can't do that again!

2. *vb.pr.* (a) To succeed, to get on (in one's business).

(b) To remain in good health. *Comment va ta sœur?—Elle se défend*, how is your sister?—Oh, sitting up and taking nourishment.

défiler, *se*, *vb.pr.* 1. To make off, to clear out.

2. To retreat from a difficulty, to back out, to dodge some unpleasant work.

déflaquer, *vb.intr.* To ease oneself, to bog.

défringuer, *vb.tr.* To undress. (From FRINGUES.)

défrusquer, *vb.tr.* To undress. (From FRUSQUES.)

dégaine, *sb.f.* Gait, general appearance. *Elle en a une dégaine!* what a gawk! *Je n'aime pas sa dégaine*, I don't like the cut of his jib.

dégelé, *e*, *adj.* 1. Dead. (*Cp.* REFROIDIR.)

2. Active, able to shift for himself, up to snuff. (*Cp.* DESSALÉ.)

dégelée, *sb.f.* 1. Shower of blows, dressing down.

2. Great quantity of things falling down. *Une dégelée de tuiles est tombée du toit*, a shower, an avalanche, of tiles has fallen from the roof.

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dégeler. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To sharpen the wits of (someone). (*Cp.* DESSALER.)

(b) *Dégeler ses convives*, to break through one's guests' reserve.

2. *vb.pr.* To lay aside one's reserve or stiffness.

déglingue, *sb.f.* Ruin, distress. *Tomber dans la déglingue*, to go all to pieces.

déglingué, e, *adj.* Slovenly, loosely dressed.

dégobillage, *sb.m.* Spewing, spew.

dégobiller, *vb.tr.* and *intr.* To puke, to spew, to cat.

dégoisage, *sb.m.* Act of DÉGOISER.

dégoiser, *vb.tr.* and *intr.* To rattle on, to spout, to spin a yarn.

dégommer, *vb.tr.* 1. To dismiss from service, to sack, U.S.: fire.

Il s'est fait dégommer, he's got the sack, he's been cashiered.

2. To oust.

dégonfler, se, *vb.pr.* 1. To climb down. *Il ne fait plus le malin, il s'est dégonflé*, he's stopped swanking, he sings small now.

Tu te dégonfles! you're giving in, you're not game.

2. To lose strength, to give out (of a horse in a race, etc.).

3. To unbosom oneself. (*Cp.* SE DÉBOUTONNER.)

dégoter. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To get, to raise. *Où avez-vous dégoté ce chapeau-là?* where did you get that hat?

(b) To excel, to beat, lick.

(c) To supplant (someone), to knock (someone) off his perch.

2. *vb.intr.* To be fine, stylish. *Ça dégote!* it has a good appearance, it is something like, it looks tip-top.

dégoulina, *sb.f.* Trickling down.

dégouliner, *vb.intr.* To trickle down.

dégourdi, e, *adj.* Alive, wide awake, up to snuff.

dégourdir, *vb.tr.* To sharpen, to put up to a thing or two.

dégoûté, *adj.* and *p.p.* *Tu n'es pas dégoûté*, lit. you are not difficult to please. *Tu voudrais une auto de 120 chevaux, tu n'es pas dégoûté!* you want a 120 H.P. motor-car, you don't want much!

dégrainer, *vb.tr.* To take somebody from his work.

dégringoler, *vb.tr.* To kill, murder. (*Cp.* DESCENDRE.)

dégriper, se, *vb.pr.* To get rid of. *On peut pas s'en dégriper*, he is

a bore, you can't give him the slip, (or, of a thing) you can't wrench yourself out of it.

dégrouillard, e, adj. Able to shift for oneself, resourceful, dodgy, spry. *C'est un type dégrouillard, il s'en tirera*, he's up to snuff, he'll get out of it.

dégrouiller, se, vb.pr. 1. To make haste. *Allons, dégrouille-toi!* now then, look slippery! stir your stumps! get a move on!

2. To manage to get along, to find one's way about.

dégueulando, adv. In a gushing way (of an actor, singer).

dégueulasse, adj. Disgusting, filthy, rotten (*lit.* and *fig.*). *C'est un type dégueulasse*, he is a fellow that makes you sick.

dégueulatoire, adj. Sickening.

dégueulbi, adj. = DÉGUEULASSE.

dégueule, adj. = DÉGUEULASSE.

dégueuler, vb.tr. and *intr.* To vomit, to cat, to bring up.

déjà, adv. 1. *C'est déjà pas si bête!* that's not so silly after all!

2. *Quand est-ce qu'il est parti, déjà?* I say, when did he go? now, let me see, when did he go?

démancher. 1. *vb.tr.* To put out of gear (without any implication of a handle). *Ma bécane est démanchée*, my bike is out of repair.

2. *vb.pr.* *Se démancher le trou du cul*, to make every effort.

demander, vb.tr. *Je vous demande un peu!* vague expletive stock phrase having about the force of 'just imagine!' 'whoever heard of such a thing!' 'I ask you!' *Ça fume un cigare, et ça n'a pas douze ans; je vous demande un peu!* he's smoking a cigar and he's not twelve; just think of it!

démantibuler, vb.tr. To put out of gear.

déménager, vb.intr. To wander, to be cracked, daft. (*Cp.* to have one's garret unfurnished.)

démerdard, e, sb.m. and *adj.* Resourceful, able to shift for himself.

démerder, se, vb.pr. To shift for oneself, to get well out of a mess.

demi, sb.m. Tankard of beer twice as big as a *bock*. *Garçon, un demi blonde (brune)!*

demi-cercle, sb.m. *Je le pincerai, repincerai, au demi-cercle*, I'll



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catch him unawares, I'll have my own back, I'll be even with him, I'll catch him bending.

démieller, se, *vb.pr.* Mild form of SE DÉMERDER.

demi-jetée, *sb.f.* Fifty francs.

demi-livre, *sb.f.* = DEMI-JETÉE.

demi-portion, *sb.f.* Dwarfed person.

demi-sel, *sb.m.* Duffer, juggins. (Name of a cheese well-known in Paris.)

demi-tour. 1. *sb.m.* *Faire demi-tour*, to be off.

2. *interj.* Lively formula of dismissal: 'hop it!' 'hook it!'

demi-vierge, *sb.f.* Girl who leads lovers to expect her favours without bestowing them.

demoiselle, *sb.f.* 1. Substituted for *fille*, daughter, in polite popular French.

2. Half a bottle of red wine. (*Cp.* FILLE, FILLETTE.)

dent, *sb.f.* 1. *Avoir la dent*, to be hungry, to have a twist, to feel peckish.

2. *Avoir une dent contre quelqu'un*, to have a grudge against someone.

dentelle, *sb.f.* *Avoir les pieds en dentelle*, to be unwilling to do something. *Je ne marche pas, j'ai les pieds en dentelle!* nothing doing, I am not having any! (*Lit.* my feet are like a piece of lace, I'm unfit for walking. *Cp.* *avoir les pieds nickelés.*)

dépagnoter. 1. *vb.tr.* To make someone get out of bed.

2. *vb.pr.* To get out of bed.

dépanner, *vb.tr.* To repair (a breakdown).

dépanneur, *sb.m.* One whose business is to repair motor-cars broken down (*en panne*) on the road.

dépendre, *vb.intr.* *C'est tout dépendu!* ironical stock reply to the restrictive formula *ça dépend*. (A pun on *dépendre*, to unhook, take down. *Cp.* *c'est tout vu.*)

dépieuter, se, *vb.pr.* To get out of bed. (From PIEU.)

déplumé, e, *adj.* Bald.

déplumer, se, *vb.pr.* 1. To get bald.

2. (From PLUMARD.) To get out of bed.

dépuceler, *vb.tr.* 1. To have sexual intercourse with a maiden.

2. To have the firstlings of anything. *Dépuceler un paquet de tabac*, to break open a packet of tobacco.



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de quoi? *adv.* Vulgar and contemptuous equivalent of *quoi?* What do you want? who do you take me for? *Dis-donc, "l'enflé," viens donc nous donner un coup de main!—Non, mais, de quoi?* I say, old boy, just give us a hand!—Give you a hand! what next? The formula may have a more aggressive or scornful shade of meaning according to context and tone: *Approche un peu et j'te casse la gueule!*—*De quoi?* you come over here and I'll knock your head off!—Go to blazes!

der, *adj.* = *dernier*, last. *Le der des der*, the last of all.

déraillard, *sb.m.* Narrow gauge railway (supposed to allow the trains to run off the line).

déralinguer, *vb.tr.* To spoil (esp. the stomach).

déraper, *vb.intr.* *Sans déramer*, without stopping. *Il a travaillé un mois sans déramer*, he kept on working for a whole month.

dériper, *vb.intr.* To go, to be off.

dérouiller. 1. *vb.tr.* To scold, give a talking to, a trouncing.

2. *vb.intr.* To work, start working (after a spell of unemployment). (*Lit.* to cease being rusty.) *Ne pas dérouiller*, not to find employment.

désargenté, e, *adj.* Penniless, hard up.

descendre, *vb.tr.* 1. To knock down. *Il l'a descendu à la deuxième reprise*, he knocked him down in the second round.

2. To kill, murder. (*Cp.* DÉGRINGOLER.)

déshabillage, *sb.m.* Severe criticism, 'slating.

déshabiller, *vb.tr.* To criticize sharply, to run down.

désordre, *adj.* Used in pop. French with the meaning of *désordonné*, untidy.

dessalé, e, *adj.* Wide awake, knowing, up to a thing or two, up to snuff.

dessaler. 1. *vb.tr.* To sharpen the wits of, to put up to a thing or two.

2. *vb.pr.* To grow cute, knowing, to become wily.

dessous, *adv.* Used in pop. French as a preposition. *Dessous la table, etc.*, under the table, etc.

dessous-de-bras, *sb.m.* Arm-pit.

dessus, *adv.* 1. Used in pop. French as a preposition. *Dessus la table, etc.*, on the table, etc. (Sometimes pronounced *dessus*.)

2. *Tomber dessus*, (a) to attack; (b) to give a wiggling to.

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dételer, *vb.intr.* To give up leading a merry life, to settle down.

deusse, *adj.* Pop. (or local) pronunciation of *deux*. *A nous deusse maintenant!* now let's have it out together; now to business!

deux, *adj.num.* 1. *Ne faire ni une ni deux*, to make no bones about it.

2. *On sera deux!* he (she, etc.) will find his master (or his match). *Il veut me rouler, mais on sera deux!* he wants to take me in, but he'll find his match, I'll show him I'm no chicken, he'll find a Tartar.

3. *Mon chapeau numéro deux*, my second best hat.

devanture, *sb.f.* Woman's breasts. (*Cp.* AVANT-SCÈNES.)

déveine, *sb.f.* Run of bad luck. *Quelle déveine!* hard cheese!

développer, *se, vb.pr.* To exert oneself. *Il va falloir se développer pour trouver à bouffer*, we'll have to get a move on to find some grub.

devenir, *vb.intr.* Popularly used for *venir*. *D'où que tu deviens?* where do you come from?

dévider, *vb.tr.* To talk. *Qu'est-ce que tu dévides?* what yarn are you spinning? *Dévider le jars*, to be able to talk slang.

déviissant, *adj.* Comical, killing, screaming. (*Cp.* BIDONNANT.)

dévisser, *vb.tr.* 1. *Dévisser son billard*, to die, kick the bucket, peg out.

2. To cut out (rival).

3. *Se dévisser le trou du cul*, to exert oneself.

diame, *sb.m.* Abbr. of *diamant*.

dico, *sb.m.* (= *dictionnaire*) *Un dico d'argot*, a slang dictionary.

digue, *sb.f.* Nothing. *Je suis venu pour la digue*, I've come for nothing.

digue-digue, *sb.f.* 1. *Être en digue-digue*, to be mad (sometimes intoxicated).

2. *Tomber en digue-digue*, to have a fainting fit, to have an epileptic fit.

dinde, *sb.f.* Silly woman, goose.

dindon, *sb.m.* Silly man, dupe. *C'est toujours moi qui suis le dindon de la farce*, I am always duped.

dingo, *adj.* Mad, barmy, cracked, daft, dotty, off one's chump (nut), potty. (*Cp.* DINGUE, FÊLÉ, LOUF, LOUFOQUE, LOUF-TINGUE, LOUPÉ, MABOUL, MARTEAU, PIQUÉ, TIMBRÉ, TOCTOC.)

dingue, *adj.* = DINGO.

dinguer, *vb.intr.* *Envoyer dinguer.* 1. To fling, throw away, with contempt, in disgust, to chuck up.

2. To send to the devil.

dire, *vb.tr.* 1. *Il n'y a pas à dire!* there's no denying it. (Usually curtailed to *y a pas à dire.*) *T a pas à dire, c'est un rude chameau!* he's an absolute rotter, and no mistake.

2. *Je ne dis pas*, it might be so. *Ferez-vous un petit voyage?*—*Je ne dis pas (non)*, shall you take a little trip?—Well, there's no saying.

3. *Je ne vous dis que ça*, formula of asseveration. *On a fait un gueuleton, je ne vous dis que ça!* we had some tuck in, you may take my word for it!

4. *Je ne lui enverrai pas dire*, I will tell him straight, I won't mince matters, I'll give him a piece of my mind.

5. *C'est pas pour dire, mais le patron est une vache*, I don't want to dwell upon it, but the boss is a dirty dog.

6. *C'est rien de le dire*, emphatic form of asseveration. *Alors vous avez bien rigolé?*—*C'est rien de le dire!* then you had a fine time?—You bet!

7. *Que je lui dis, qu'il me dit, etc.*, expletive formula often used in popular speech: says I to him, says he to me, etc.

8. *Comme qui dirait*, as it were, in a manner of speaking. *Elle était comme qui dirait leur bonne*, she was with them as a kind of maid.

9. *Dire (quelque chose) à quelqu'un*, to please, to be agreeable to, somebody. *Ça me dit, ce pays-là!* I've a liking for that country. *Ça ne me dit rien de travailler*, I don't feel like working. *Ça ne me dit pas grand'chose*, I'm not very keen on it.

distribe, *sb.f.* (= *distribution*) Chiefly used of army rations.

dix-huit. *Se mettre sur son dix-huit*, to don one's best clothes, to dress up. (*Cp. se mettre sur son trente et un*, to be dressed up to the nines.)

dodo, *sb.m.* (Child's word.) 1. Sleep. *Faire dodo*, to sleep. *Dodo, l'enfant do!* hush-a-bye, baby!

2. Bed. *Aller au dodo*, to go to bed, to go to bye-bye.

doigt, *sb.m.* *Arriver, gagner, les doigts dans le nez*, to win hands down. (*Cp. FAUTEUIL, VOULOIR, PÉTER.*)

domino, *sb.m.* 1. Tooth. (*Cp. domino-box*, mouth.)

2. Bone, in the expression *boîte à dominos*, coffin.



dondon, *sb.f.* Stout woman. (Usually *une grosse dondon*.)

donner. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To betray, give away. (*Cp. VENDRE*.)

(b) *En donner. Une auto, tu veux t'acheter une auto, je t'en donnerai, moi, des autos!* a motor-car, you want to buy a motor-car; well, I never! whoever heard of such a thing?

2. *vb.pr.* *S'en donner*, to enjoy oneself; to have a good time.

(*Cp. S'EN PAYER*.)

dos, *sb.m.* 1. *Dos (vert)*, pimp.

2. *En avoir plein le dos*, to be fed up with it.

3. *Ne pas y aller avec le dos de la cuiller*, to dab it, lay it, on thick, to make no bones about it.

doublard, *sb.m.* Sergeant-major.

double. 1. *sb.m.* Sergeant-major.

2. *adj.* *Mettre quelqu'un en double*, to pull someone's leg.

double-mètre, *sb.m.* Nickname for a very tall man, a lamp-post.

doubler, *v.tr.* To deceive, get round, wheedle. *Il a essayé de me doubler*, he tried to do me, to diddle me.

doubles, *sb.m.pl.* Faked dice used by sharpers.

douce. 1. *En douce poilpoil*, quietly, cautiously, furtively, on the Q.T. *Vas-y en douce*, go easy, easy does it.

2. *A la douce*, so so. *Comment va?*—*Tout à la douce*, how goes it?—Middling.

3. *Se la couler douce*, see COULER.

doucement, *adv.* *Aller tout, bien, doucement*, speaking of a sick person it is a euphemistic formula and may mean 'to be not very well' or even 'to be in a very bad way.'

douille, *sb.f.* 1. Money.

2. (In the plural.) Hair.

douloureuse, *sb.f.* Bill (when presented, esp. at restaurant, hotel).

dragée, *sb.f.* Bullet.

drap, *sb.m.* *Être dans de beaux draps*, to be in a fix, in a regular mess. *Me voilà dans de beaux draps!* a nice pickle I'm in now!

drapeau, *sb.m.* *Planter un drapeau*, to leave a restaurant, pub, etc., after running up debts in it.

drelinguer, *vb.intr.* 1. To knock about aimlessly.

2. To walk about.

3. To wait long.

4. To waste one's time.

drogue, *sb.f.* Nasty fellow, bad egg. (*Cp.* POISON.)

droguer, *vb.intr.* To wait long. *Faire droguer quelqu'un*, to make someone hang about, cool (or kick) his heels.

drôle, *sb.m.* A particularly cunning and dangerous criminal. (In the mouth of a detective the word is quite different in meaning from the usual *drôle* applied to an unprincipled man or simply to a roguish boy.)

Dumanet, *proper name.* An artless, gullible soldier, Johnny Raw.

dur, *sb.m.* Railway. *J'aime aller à pattes, j'm'en sens pas pour le dur*, I'd rather foot it, I don't like to go by train. (*Cp.* hard = third class, in 'to go hard or soft.')

dur, *e*, *adj.* 1. *N'être pas dur.* (a) To be a good-tempered chap, easy to get on with.

(b) (Antiphrastic) To be cheeky. *Il veut gagner cinquante francs par jour, il n'est pas dur!* he wants to earn fifty francs a day, what cheek! he does not want much!

2. *Dur à la détente*, close-fitted.

dure, *sb.f.* 1. Meat. (*Cp.* stick-jaw.)

2. *En faire voir de dures à quelqu'un*, to give somebody a bad time. *Je lui en ferai voir de dures*, I'll give him beans, put him through it.

durillon, *adj.* = DUR.

durs, *sb.m.pl.* Penal servitude. *Il est bon pour les durs*, he is sure to be sent to a penal settlement. (*Cp.* hard labour.)

E

eau, *sb.f.* 1. *Tomber, lâcher, de l'eau*, to make water, to pump ship.

2. *Être en eau*, to be in profuse perspiration.

3. *Il y a de l'eau dans le gaz*, things are beginning to look dirty (as gas burns badly when there is water in the pipe).

4. *Eau pour les yeux*, spirits, brandy.

éberluer, *vb.tr.* To astound. *Tout éberlué*, dumbfounded, struck all of a heap.



écailler, *vb.tr.* To swindle, to fleece. (*Cp.* PLUMER.)

échauder, *vb.tr.* To deceive, take in, overcharge. *Je me suis fait échauder*, I have been taken in, fleeced.

échelle, *sb.f.* *Faire monter à l'échelle*, to make a fool of, to cod. *Vous me faites monter à l'échelle*, you are pulling my leg.

éclairer, *vb.intr.* 1. To pay (in advance). *Il faut éclairer avant de jouer*, one must show one's money before playing.

2. *vb.tr.* and *intr.* To pay (in general). *Tu me dois cent sous, éclaire!* you owe me five francs, stump up! *As-tu éclairé la dépense?* have you paid what's owing? (*Cp.* ALLUMER 1, BOUGIE 2.)

écopage, *sb.m.* (a) Blow, wound. (b) Slating.

écoper, *vb.tr.* and *intr.* To suffer any damage, misfortune. *Il écope toujours pour les autres*, he is always bearing the blame due to others. *A-t-il été blessé?—Oui il a salement écopé*, was he wounded?—Yes, he copped it badly. *Il a écopé de trois jours de salle*, he's got three days' C.B. *Il écopera sûrement s'il continue*, if he goes on, he is sure to be run in, condemned, etc.

écouter, *vb.tr.* *Je vous écoute!* of course! indeed, I should think so! *Ça c'est pas le filon!—F't'écoute!* that's a rotten job, isn't it?—Not half! (*Cp.* PARLER.) Mostly ironical: 'sez you!'

écrabouiller, *vb.tr.* To crush, to smash, to pulp.

écraser, *vb.tr.* *En écraser*, to sleep (soundly). (Perhaps from 'to crush straw by lying on it.')

écrevisse, *sb.f.* *Écrevisse de rempart*, infantryman. (Because of the red trousers.)

effaroucher, *vb.tr.* (*Lit.* to scare away.) To sneak, pinch. *Il m'a effarouché mon tabac*, he's boned my baccy.

effet, *sb.m.* Spin imparted by striking the bottom of a billiard ball. *Prendre beaucoup d'effet droit*, to put on plenty of right-hand bottom. *Effet rétro*, backward bottom.

égal, *adj.* *C'est égal*, may have the force of: anyhow, yet, what a pity. *C'était si beau que ça? c'est égal, j'aurais voulu y être!* was it as fine as that? well, I'm sorry I was not there! (That is: though there might have been objections to my being there, *ça m'est égal*, I don't care, and I should have liked to be present all the same.)

emballage, *sb.m.* (Racing) Spurt.

emballer. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To arrest. *Se faire emballer*, to be run in.
(b) To excite enthusiastic admiration, to thrill. *Ce roman-là m'emballle*, I think that novel really fascinating. *Ça ne m'emballle pas*, I'm not very keen on it.

2. *vb.intr.* (Racing) To put on a spurt.

3. *vb.pr.* To get excited. *Ne vous emballez pas*, keep your hair on.

embarber, vb.intr. To go in. (= EMBARDER 3.)

embarder, vb.intr. 1. To hesitate, shuffle.

2. To enter upon a business.

3. To go in. *Embarder dans une carrée*, to enter a room.
(Another form of EMBARBER.)

embarquer, vb.tr. To arrest, to put in clink. *Se faire embarquer*, to get run in.

emberlificoter, vb.tr. 1. To entangle. *Je me suis emberlificoté dans les fils barbelés*, I got entangled in the barbed wire.

2. (Fig.) *Emberlificoté dans une sale affaire*, in a sad predicament, in a fix.

embêtement, sb.m. 1. Boring thing, bother, nuisance.

2. *Avoir des embêtements*, to be unlucky, temporarily unfortunate, in a fix. *Causer des embêtements à*, to molest.

embêter. 1. *v.tr.* (a) To bore. *Il m'embête avec ses sermons*, he bores me with his lectures.

(b) To harass, molest, plague. *Si vous ne le payez pas, il vous embêtera par tous les moyens*, if you do not pay him, he will plague you in all sorts of ways.

2. *vb.pr.* *S'embêter*, to be bored.

embistrouiller, vb.tr. 1. To bore.

2. To entangle, deceive. *On nous a embistrouillés*, we've been coddled about.

embobeliner, vb.tr. To wheedle, persuade by flattery or endearments.

embobiner, vb.tr. = EMBOBELINER.

emboucaner. 1. *vb.intr.* To stink. 2. *v.tr.* To bore.

emboutir, vb.tr. (Moting) To collide with, to slip into. (Lit. to swage.)

embrouiller, vb.tr. *Ni vu ni connu j't'embrouille*, formula used with reference to some strange event. *Deux heures après, il n'y avait plus de bonhomme, ni vu ni connu j't'embrouille!* two hours

after, the fellow had disappeared, and nobody was the wiser for it. (*Lit.* neither seen, nor known, and there is a puzzle for you.)

embusqué, *sb.m.* and *adj.* One who has a soft job, a Cuthbert. *Les embusqués*, the shirkers, slackers.

embusquer, *vb.tr.* To give someone an appointment at the rear, (or generally) a soft job.

éméché, *e*, *adj.* A little drunk, squiffy, half-sprung.

émeri, *sb.m.* *Bouché à l'émeri*, utterly dense. (*Lit.* stopped up with a ground-glass stopper.)

emmanché, *e*, *adj.* *Bien (mal) emmanché*, in a good (bad) state of repair, working satisfactorily (without any implication of a *manche*, handle). *Elle a la gueule bien emmanchée*, she has a glib tongue, she can slang one properly.

emmancher. 1. *vb.tr.* To start, to set going. *Emmancher une affaire*.

2. *vb.pr.* *La conversation s'est emmanchée là-dessus*, we've started talking about that.

emmener. 1. *vb.tr.* In the expression *emmener à la campagne*, to despise, not to care for. *Je t'emmène à la campagne*, you can go to the deuce for all I care. (*Cp.* he can go and catch spiders.)

2. *vb.pr.* To go, to be off. *Je ne resterai pas toute ma vie dans ce sale patelin, un jour ou l'autre je m'emmènerai*, I won't stop all my life in that beastly hole, I'll be off some day.

emmerdement, *sb.m.* Trouble, nuisance. *Quel emmerdement!* what an infernal mess we are in! *Depuis six mois je n'ai eu que des emmerdements*, my life has been one damn thing after another for the last six months.

emmerder. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To bore, trouble, worry.

(b) To despise. *Je l'emmerde*, he can go to the devil for all I care.

2. *vb.pr.* To be troubled, worried, bored, to death.

emmerdeur, *euse*, *sb.m.* and *adj.* A bore, a nuisance.

emmieller, *vb.tr.* Mild form of **EMMERDER**.

emmistoufler, *vb.tr.* To bore.

emmouscailler, *vb.tr.* = **EMMERDER**.

emmoutarder, *vb.tr.* = **EMMERDER**.

empaillé. 1. *sb.m.* Slow, clumsy person, noodle, muff, stick-in-the-mud.

2. *adj.* Awkward, clumsy.

empaumer, vb.tr. To take in, to do, cheat. *Se faire empaumer*, to be cheated, done.

empeigne, sb.f. (*Lit.* upper of a shoe.) *Gueule d'empeigne*, term of abuse without definite meaning: villainous face, ugly mug.

empiffrer, s', vb.pr. To eat greedily, to guzzle, stuff.

empiler, vb.tr. To rob, cheat. *Se faire empiler*, to be cheated. (*At cards, sometimes, to lose money, without any suggestion of unfair play.*)

emplâtre, sb.m. Awkward, clumsy fellow, muff, dud.

empoigne. *A la foire d'empoigne*, by robbery. (*Lit. en empoignant*, by laying hold of.) *Acheter à la foire d'empoigne*, to steal. *Il a acheté ça à la foire d'empoigne*, he has stolen it. *Revenir de la foire d'empoigne*, to come back with plenty of booty.

empoisonnant, e, adj. Exceedingly boring, rotten. *C'est une besogne empoisonnante*, this job is simply poisonous, putrid.

empoisonner, vb.tr. To bore. *Être empoisonné par un travail*, to be bored to death by a job. (*Cp. EMBOUCANER.*)

empoté, e, sb.m.f. and adj. Awkward, clumsy person. *Grouille-toi, espèce d'empoté!* get a move on, stick-in-the-mud!

encadrer, vb.tr. *Tu peux le (la, les) faire encadrer*, (*lit.* you may have it (etc.) framed) stock phrase expressing emphatic contempt for the thing referred to: I don't care a damn for it.

encaisser, vb.tr. 1. *Encaisser des coups, un affront*, to receive blows, to pocket an affront. *Il n'a pas pu encaisser ça*, that stuck in his gizzard.

2. *Ne pas encaisser quelqu'un*, to dislike somebody. *Je ne peux pas l'encaisser, ce type-là*, I can't stick that chap.

endormir, vb.tr. To kill, murder. (*Cp. APAISER, REFROIDIR.*)

endroit, sb.m. 1. *Le bon endroit*, the posterior. *Donner un coup de pied (à quelqu'un) au bon endroit*, to kick (someone) in the right spot.

2. *Le petit endroit*, the W.C., Mrs. Jones.

enfiler. 1. *vb.tr.* Rob, cheat. *T'as payé ça cinquante francs? Eh bien, mon vieux, on t'a enfilé*, you paid fifty francs for it? Well, old chap, they've done you brown.



2. *vb.pr.* *S'enfiler un verre de vin, un bon dîner*, to swallow a glass of wine, to treat oneself to a good dinner. *Enfile-moi ça!* get outside that! take a pull at that! *S'enfiler trente kilomètres à pied*, to be obliged to walk thirty kilometres. (*Cp.* *s'appuyer* 2.)
- enflé**, *adj.* *L'enflé*, nickname used in addressing anybody (used jocularly or with an expression of slight contempt). *Dis donc, l'enflé, qu'est-ce que tu fiches là?* I say, old blighter, what are you about?
- enfoncé**, *e.* 1. *adj.* Done up, done for, done in. *Ils n'ont plus le sou, ils sont enfoncés*, they're on the rocks; it's all up with them.
2. *p.p.* Beaten, outdone (in a contest). *Enfoncés les libéraux!* the liberals are licked.!
- enfoncer**, *s'*, *vb.pr.* = *s'enfiler*.
- enfuir**, *s'*, *vb.pr.* = *se sauver* 2.
- engraisser**, *vb.tr.* To make wealthy. *J'en ai assez de turbiner pour engraisser les rufins*, I'm fed up with toiling for the nobs to batten on me.
- engueulade**, *sb.f.* Talking to. *Recevoir une engueulade*, to get a good talking to, to be hauled over the coals.
- engueuler**, *vb.tr.* 1. To abuse, to slang.
2. To reprimand. *Je me suis fait bien engueuler par le patron*, I've been properly jawed by the boss.
- enguirlander**, *vb.tr.* 1. A mild and jocular form of *engueuler*.
2. To wheedle, rope in.
- enlever**, *vb.tr.* (a) To reprimand. *Il s'est fait salement enlever*, he's got a rare talking to.
(b) *Se faire enlever le ballon*, see *BALLON* 1.
- ennuyer**, *s'*, *vb.pr.* *S'ennuyer de*, to regret, to miss. *Il s'ennuie de chez lui*, he is home-sick. *J'm'ennuie de Panam*, I'm sick for Paris, longing to be back in Paris.
- enquiquiner**, *vb.tr.* = *emmerder*.
- ensemble**, *sb.m.* *Poser pour l'ensemble*, to sit for the nude.
- entendu**, *p.p.* of *entendre*. *Comme de bien entendu*, of course. *Comme de bien entendu, je serai là à quatre heures tapant*, I need not tell you I'll turn up on the stroke of four.
- enterrement**, *sb.m.* Putting away, forgetting (of a scheme). *Si vous n'en parlez plus, ce sera enterrement de première classe*, if

you don't say any more about it, the matter will be clean forgotten.

entôler, *vb.tr.* 1. To rob (esp. of a prostitute). *Se faire entôler*, to be robbed by a prostitute.

2. (*Fig.*) To rob, to cheat. *N'allez pas dans ce magasin, on vous entôlerait*, don't you buy in this shop, they'll fleece you. *Je me suis encore fait entôler au bridge*, I have lost again at bridge (without reference to any dishonesty).

entôleuse, *sb.f.* Prostitute who decoys and robs her clients.

entonnoir, *sb.m.* Stomach, bread-box.

entortiller, *vb.tr.* To wheedle, get round. *Se faire entortiller*, to be taken in, deceived by specious talk, etc.

entraver, **entréver**, *vb.tr.* To understand. Only used in the expression *n'entraver que dalle* (or *pouic*), not to understand at all.

entuber, *vb.tr.* To rob, cheat (esp. at cards). *Se faire entuber*, to be cheated at cards, (also) to lose one's money at cards (not necessarily with sharpers).

envelopper, *vb.tr.* *Et avec ça, est-ce qu'il faut te l'envelopper?* an ironical stock phrase; 'do you want it with knobs on?'

envoyer. 1. *vb.tr.* To say. *Il nous envoie des boniments idiots*, he tells us all sorts of nonsense. *Il lui a dit ce qu'il pensait, c'était envoyé*, he told him his way of thinking, it went home, it got there. *Ça c'est envoyé*, that's the stuff to give him; that's got him.

2. *vb.pr.* (a) To treat oneself to. *S'envoyer un bon dîner*, to treat oneself to a good dinner.

(b) To have to endure, to suffer. *S'envoyer vingt kilomètres à pied*, to have to walk twenty kilometres. *C'est encore moi qui m'enverrai ce travail-là!* this job will fall to me again! (*Cp. S'APPUYER* 2.)

épastrouillant, *e, adj.* Extraordinary, astounding, flabbergasting, topping.

épastrouiller, *vb.tr.* To astound. *Cette nouvelle a épastrouillé tout le monde*, this piece of news flabbergasted everybody.

épatamment, *adv.* Very well, stunningly, rippingly, A1. *Je me suis amusé épatamment*, I had a rattling good time.

épatant, *e, adj.* Extraordinary, splendid, enjoyable, first-rate of its kind, absolutely it. *Un type épatant*, a topping fellow. *Un*

dîner épatant, a slap-up dinner. *Une histoire épatante*, a ripping, rattling good, story. *C'était épatant*, it was A1.

épate, *sb.f.* *Faire de l'épate*, to show off, to swank.

épater. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To surprise, astound, stun, stagger. *Ça, ça m'épate!* well, that beats me!

(b) To attract notice by pretentious display of anything. *Il aime épater ses amis*, he is fond of showing off before his friends.

2. *vb.pr.* To be easily amazed or impressed. *Il ne s'épate pas*, he's a cool customer.

épateur, *euse*, *sb.m.f.* One who is fond of showing off, a bouncer, a swank(-pot).

épaule, *sb.f.* *Donner un coup d'épaule à quelqu'un*, to give someone a leg up.

épicemar, *sb.m.* (= *épicier*) Grocer.

épinards, *sb.m.pl.* *Mettre du beurre dans les épinards*, see **BEURRE** 1.

épingle, *sb.f.* 1. *Tiré à quatre épingles*, spruce, spruced up, dressed up to the nines.

2. *Ce n'est pas pour le (la, les) monter en épingle de cravate*, (lit. it's not to make a tie-pin of it) jocular stock reply to somebody expressing ignorance or curiosity as to the proper use of anything.

épique, *adj.* Both wonderful and slightly ludicrous, fantastic, marvellous. *Il est épique, ce type-là avec ses cravates jaunes!* that chap is the limit with his yellow ties! *Ils se sont pris aux cheveux pendant plus d'une demi-heure, c'était épique!* they had a hell of a scrap for more than half an hour, it was some sight! as good as a play!

épluchure, *sb.f.* Rubbish, muck. (Vague term of abuse.)

époil, *e*, *adj.* Admirable, lucky (of an event), good, agreeable of its kind, A1, tip-top, ripping, etc.

époilant, *e*, *adj.* Surprising, astounding, wonderful, ripping, clinking, tip-top, etc. (*Cp.* **ÉPOIL**.)

épousseter, *vb.tr.* To beat, give a dusting. *Je me suis fait joliment épousseter!* they dusted my jacket for me!

époustouflant, *e*, *adj.* Astounding, stunning, etc. (*Cp.* **ÉPATANT**.)

époustoufler, *vb.tr.* To astound, flabbergast, etc. (*Cp.* **ÉPATER**.)

éreintement, *sb.m.* 1. Exhaustion.

2. Scathing criticism.

érein*ter*, *vb.tr.* 1. To tire exceedingly, exhaust. *Ça m'éreinte!* it takes it out of me! *Je suis éreinté*, I am done up, knocked up, dead beat, all in.

2. To spoil. *Il m'a éreinté ma bécane*, he smashed up my bike.

3. To criticize cruelly, run down. *Sa pièce a été éreintée dans les journaux*, his play was badly slated in the papers.

erreur, *sb.f.* *Y a pas d'erreur*, and no mistake.

esbrouf(f)*e*, *sb.f.* 1. Attempt to attract notice, pretentious display of anything. *Faire de l'esbrouffe*, to show off.

2. *Vol à l'esbrouffe*, picking a person's pocket after hustling him.

esbrouf(f)*er*. 1. *vb.tr.* (= ÉPATER 1 (b).) To try to astonish by showing off.

2. *vb.pr.* *S'esbrouffer de quelque chose*, to take fright at, to be upset by, something (rather unimportant).

esbrouf(f)*eur*, *euse*, *sb.m.f.* One who is fond of showing off, bouncer, swanker.

escampette, *sb.f.* *Prendre la poudre d'escampette*, to bolt, to skeddaddle, to make tracks.

escargot de rempart, *sb.m.* Nickname of the *gardes nationaux* of Paris created in 1868, whose duty was to defend the fortifications of the town.

esclaffer, *s'*, *vb.pr.* To laugh uproariously, to split one's sides with laughter.

escof(f)*ier*, *vb.tr.* To kill, murder. *Ils l'ont escoffié*, they've settled his hash for him.

esgourde, *sb.f.* Ear. *Colle-lui une beigne sur l'esgourde!* sock him one on the ear!

espèce, *sb.f.* Emphasizes any abusive name. *Espèce d'idiot!* you bally idiot! (One often hears *un espèce d'idiot*, *espèce d'* being regarded as masculine by the attraction of the masculine *idiot*; but the word assumes its regular feminine gender if the substantive following it is feminine, *une espèce d'idiote*.)

espérer, *vb.tr.* Used as an expletive, in the first person singular of the present indicative in such sentences as *J'espère, ma chère, que vous avez un beau chapeau!* what a nice hat you've got, my dear!

esquinter, *vb.tr.* 1. To exhaust. *Ce travail m'a esquinté*, this

work used me up, tired me out. *Je suis esquiné*, I am dead-beat, done up.

2. To spoil. *Il m'a esquiné ma montre*, he ruined my watch.
estampage, *sb.m.* Cheat, fraud, take-in. (See **ESTAMPER**.)

estamper, *vb.tr.* To dupe, cheat, take in. *N'y allez pas, on vous estampera*, don't go there, they will do you. *Je me suis fait estamper dans les grandes largeurs*, I have been thoroughly cheated, done brown.

estomac, *sb.m.* 1. *Avoir de l'estomac*, to be able to stand heavy losses of money.

2. *Avoir l'estomac dans les talons*, to be very hungry.

3. *sb.m.pl.* Woman's breasts. (Cp. **BALCON**.)

estomaquer, *vb.tr.* To astound.

estourbir, *vb.tr.* To kill. *Si vous passez dans cette rue-là à minuit, vous vous ferez estourbir*, if you pass through that street at midnight, they'll settle your hash for you. *Il s'est fait estourbir*, he's been done in.

étagère, *sb.f.* Top of omnibus.

étaler, *s'*, *vb.tr.* To fall down, to come a cropper.

états, *sb.m.pl.* *Être dans tous ses états*, to be quite upset (with emotion, anger, etc.), in a great state.

Étienne, *proper name.* *A la tienne Étienne*, rhyming stock phrase for a toast: here's to you, old chap! your health! cheerio! all the best! here's looking at you!

étouffer, *vb.tr.* To pinch, bone, collar. *On m'a étouffé mon tabac*, my tobacco has been scrounged. (Cp. **ASPHYXIER**.)

être, *vb.aux.* *L'être*, to be a cuckold. *En être*, (according to context) to be a detective, a sodomist.

étrenner. 1. *vb.tr.* *Étrennez-moi!* call of hawkers, flower-girls, beggars, etc., meaning 'buy (give me) something, your money will be the first I shall have got to-day (*étrenne*) and will bring me good luck.'

2. *vb.intr.* (a) To receive money from the first customer in the day. (See above, 1.) *Je n'ai pas encore étrenné*, I have not sold anything yet.

(b) To get a thrashing. *Attends un peu, tu vas étrenner!* wait a minute, I am going to give you a thrashing!

étron, *sb.m.* Turd.



étui, *sb.m.* Stomach, bread-box.

Eugène, *proper name.* French '75 gun.

eustache, *sb.m.* Knife.

évu, *p.p.* Pop. past participle of *avoir*. *Ils ont évu des malheurs*, they've been down on their luck.

exciter, *vb.tr.* To excite sexual desire. *Un roman excitant* is not an exciting novel, but a lascivious, erotic, one.

excuser, *vb.tr.* *Excusez du peu!* ironical formula meaning 'only that! that's not much! how modest!' *Ma bonne est menteuse, voleuse et ivrogne.*—*Excusez du peu!* My maid is a liar, a thief and a drunkard.—Is that all?

exister, *vb.intr.* 1. To feel a keen sensation of physical enjoyment. *Il fait bon ici, on existe!* it is cosy here, one feels jolly comfy! this is something like!

2. *Ça n'existe pas!* expresses contempt. *Connais-tu ce roman?*—*Ça n'existe pas*, do you know this novel?—It is rotten, it's not worth reading, it's rubbish.

extra, *sb.m.* 1. A man (esp. a waiter) engaged on an odd job.

2. An odd job. *Faire des extras*, not to have regular employment, to do odd jobs.

extra-lucide, *adj.* Used by fortune-tellers in their advertisements, *Madame X . . . , voyante extra-lucide*, super-clairvoyant.

F

fabriquer, *vb.tr.* 1. To do. *Qu'est-ce que tu fabriques là?* what are you after? Often used with a pejorative shade of meaning. *Qu'est-ce qu'il m'a fabriqué là ce petit garnement?* what has the little rascal been up to?

2. To steal. *On m'a fabriqué mon porte-monnaie*, my purse has been stolen. *On m'a fabriqué mon tabac*, somebody's scrounged my tobacco.

3. To catch, arrest. *Il a été fabriqué sur le tas*, he was caught in the very act.

fada, *adj.invar.* Crazy, barmy.

fade, *sb.m.* *Avoir son fade*, (a) to have one's full share (of a bad thing), (b) to be drunk. (*Cp.* *FADÉ* 3.)



fadé, e, adj. and p.p. 1. *Être fadé de*, to be in possession of, provided with (good or bad thing).

2. In a bad way (ill, wounded, etc.). *Cette fois il ne s'en remettra pas, il est fadé*, this time he won't recover, he's done for, he's a goner.

3. Drunk. *Il est fadé*, he's well sprung.

fader, vb.tr. 1. To beat, kill, do in. *L'un des deux doit fader l'autre*, one of us must do for the other.

2. Punish, treat severely. *Les juges l'ont fadé*, the judges have given him a heavy sentence, given it to him hot.

fafiot, sb.m. Banknote. *Des fafiots*, flimsies.

fagot, sb.m. 1. A student of the *École Forestière*.

2. *De derrière les fagots*, excellent, of superior quality (usually applied to wine).

fagoter. 1. *vb.tr.* To dress like a guy.

2. *vb.pr.* To make oneself look like a guy.

faible, adj. *Tomber faible*, to have a fainting fit.

faignant, e, sb.m. and adj. 1. Lazy person, lazy-bones, sluggard.

2. Coward, funky. *Il est trop faignant pour se battre*, he's too cowardly to fight. *Viens donc là, si t'es pas faignant!* come on, if you've any spunk! (Perhaps a corruption of *faînéant*.)

faire, vb.tr. 1. To steal, bag, collar, bone. *On m'a fait mon tabac*, my tobacco has been pinched.

2. Caught. *Je suis fait* (sometimes *comme un rat*), I am nabbed, done brown, sold.

3. *S'en faire, ne pas s'en faire*, to worry, not to worry. *Il ne s'en fait pas*, he takes it easy.

4. *Il ne faut pas me la faire*, it's no good trying it on with me.

5. *Vous me la faites à l'oseille*, you are coddling me.

6. *La faire à la pose, au chiqué*, to show off, to swank.

7. *La faire à la vertu, l'innocence, etc.*, to give oneself the airs of a virtuous, innocent person.

8. *Faire aux pattes* = FAIRE 1.

9. *Faire une femme, un type, un miché*, to pick up a woman, a man, a mug.

10. *Faire les plages, les casinos, etc.*, to do, to work, sea-side resorts, casinos, etc. (commercial traveller, etc.).

11. *Il fait soif, faim*, (by analogy with *il fait chaud, froid*) I am thirsty, hungry.

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12. *Savoir y faire*, to be cute, to know the ropes, to be up to snuff. *T'inquiète pas, il se débrouillera, il sait y faire*, don't you worry, he'll shift for himself, he knows a thing or two.

13. *Ça fait chic, jeune, vieux*, (of a dress) it makes you look smart, young, old.

14. *Faire les consommations*, to have a game at cards, etc., to decide who is to 'stand the damage.'

15. *Ça n'a rien à faire*, general formula of denial or refusal. *Te prêter cent francs? non, mon vieux, ça n'a rien à faire!* lend you a hundred francs? no, old boy, nothing doing, I'm not on!

16. *Faites donc!* stock reply to a person saying 'I beg your pardon': don't mention it, please go on.

17. *Y a de quoi faire*, stock phrase said by a person who is shown a great quantity of anything, as a vague expression of polite admiration. It has the force of 'well I can see you've plenty and to spare.'

18. Used as an expletive, after *pourquoi*. *Tu devrais freiner à la descente.—Pourquoi faire? il n'y a pas de danger*, you should put the brake on going down that slope.—Why should I? there is no danger.

19. *Faire la chaussure, les gants, etc.*, (of a shopkeeper) to keep shoes, gloves, etc. (not to make them).

faiseur, euse, sb.m.f. 1. Swindler.

2. Intriguer, swaggerer, bouncer.

falloir, vb.intr. *Faut-il!* interjection expressing indignation, with the force of 'is it really possible?' *Faut-il qu'il soit idiot tout de même!* did you ever hear of such a fool!

falot, sb.m. 1. Eye.

2. *Passer aux falots*, to be tried by court martial.

falzar, sb.m. Trousers.

fameux, euse, adj. First-rate of its kind, ripping, splendid, great. *Un fameux dîner*, a slap-up dinner. *Un fameux imbécile*, a bally fool. *Ça n'est pas fameux*, that's no great shakes.

fanal, sb.m. *N'avoir rien dans le fanal*, to have an empty stomach. (Cp. LAMPE.)

fanfan, sb.m. Child's word for *enfant*.

fanfare, sb.f. *Un sale coup pour la fanfare*, see COUP 9.

fantabosse, sb.m. Infantryman, footslogger, mud-crusher.



fantaise, *sb.f.* and *adj.* (= *fantaisie*) *Un képi, une vareuse, fantaise*, a fancy cap, a fancy tunic (not according to regulations).

fantaisie, *sb.f.* Used as an adjective with *liqueur, sirop*, etc., meaning that the article referred to is not genuine. For instance, *sirop de groseille fantaisie* on the label is an indirect and euphemistic way of conveying to the customer's mind the otherwise unpleasant notion that there is no currant at all in the syrup.

faramineux, euse, *adj.* Big of its kind, thundering. *Un rhume faramineux*, a terrific cold. *Un toupet faramineux*, an awful cheek.

fard, *sb.m.* *Piquer un fard*, to blush. (Sometimes spelt *phare*.) (*Cp.* SOLEIL.)

farfouiller, *vb.tr.* To rummage about.

fatigué, e, *adj.* 1. *Né fatigué*, very lazy. *Il est né fatigué, celui-là*, that fellow was born tired.

2. *Fatigué-d'être-moche*, used in exclamations. *Va donc, eh, fatigué-d'être-moche!* go to blazes, ugly mug! (*Lit.* you have been ugly so long that you must be fed-up with it.)

fauche, *sb.f.* Any stolen article. *C'est pas cher, c'est de la fauche*, it's not dear, it was pinched, they're stolen goods.

fauché, e, *adj.* and *p.p.* Ruined, hard up, stony broke, on the rocks. *Je suis fauché* (sometimes *comme les blés*), I'm stony broke.

faucher, *vb.tr.* To steal, sneak, scrounge. *On m'a fauché mon tabac*, they've pinched my tobacco.

fausse-couche, *sb.f.* Ill-shaped, weak fellow, failure, one with no pluck, dud, runt, wash-out.

faute, *sb.f.* *Ça n'est pas, ça ne sera pas, (etc.) de ma (ta, sa, etc.) faute*, used with the force of 'I did, I will do, my best to get the said result.' *S'il n'a pas quitté la ville, ça n'est pas de ma faute*, if he did not leave the town, I am not responsible for it, it's not my fault.

fauter, *vb.intr.* (Of girl) To go wrong, to make a slip.

fauteuil, *sb.m.* *Il est arrivé (comme) dans un fauteuil*, (of a jockey in a race) he won in a canter, it was a walk-over for him, he left the others standing. (*Cp.* DOIGT.)

faux-col, *sb.m.* Froth on a glass of beer, cauliflower. *Un bock*,



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CSL

garçon, et sans faux-col! waiter, a glass of beer, and not too much head on it!

fayot, *sb.m.* 1. Kidney-bean.

2. Sergeant-major.

feignant, *e*, *sb.m.* and *adj.* = FAIGNANT.

félant, *e*, *adj.* Very comical. (*Cp.* killing, to split one's sides with laughter.)

fêlé, *e*, *adj.* Crazy, cracked. *Il est fêlé*, he's got a tile off. (*Cp.* DINGO.)

fendard. 1. *sb.m.* Trousers.

2. *adj.* *Faire le fendard*, to swank, brag, talk big, put on swaggering airs.

fendre, *se*, *vb.pr.* To pay down, to come down, to bring out the money (reluctantly), to stump up. *On a fait une quête, il a fallu me fendre de 20 francs*, they made a collection, I had to fork out twenty francs. *Il ne t'a donné que cent francs? Eh bien, il ne s'est pas fendu!* he gave you only a hundred francs? What an old screw!

fenêtre, *sb.f.* 1. *Mettre la tête, le nez, à la fenêtre*, to be guillotined.

2. *Faire la fenêtre*, (of a prostitute) to entice passers-by from a window.

fermer, *vb.tr.* *Fermer sa boîte, bouche, gueule, malle, la fermer*, to shut up. *La ferme! ferme ça!* dry up!

féroce, *adj.* 1. (Of a person and always in the negative) Clever. *Il n'est pas féroce*, he'll never set the Thames on fire.

2. (Of a thing, also negatively) Difficult. *Ton devoir n'était pas bien féroce*, your exercise was not a very hard one.

ferré, *e*, *adj.* Proficient. *Il est ferré en mathématiques*, he is well up, strong, in mathematics. (*Cp.* CALÉ.)

fesse, *sb.f.* Buttock. 1. *Serrer les fesses*, to kick against the pricks, to refuse compliance, to be refractory.

2. *N'y aller que d'une fesse*, to go at, do, a thing half-heartedly, to slack.

feu, *sb.m.* *N'y voir que du feu*, not to see, understand, anything (esp. because one is deceived by some trick). *Vous pouvez le faire, il n'y verra que du feu*, you can do it, he won't be any the wiser for it, he'll never twig.

feuille, *sb.f.* *Feuille de chou*, inferior newspaper, rag, gutter-sheet.

feuillées, *sb.f.pl.* Privy in camp, trenches, etc., latrines.

fiacre, *sb.m.* *Fait en fiacre*, said of an ill-shaped, clumsy-looking person, abortion, runt. (Begotten in a cab and not in the marriage-bed.)

ficelé, *e*, *adj.* *Mal ficelé*, (a) awkwardly dressed, dressed like a guy; (b) botched up.

ficelle. 1. *sb.f.* (a) Stripe. *Un officier à trois ficelles*, a captain.

(b) *Connaître les ficelles*, to be up to snuff, to know a thing or two. (*Cp.* to know the ropes.)

2. *adj.* Cute, knowing, cunning, crafty.

fichant, *adj.* Annoying. *C'est fichant!* what a nuisance! botheration!

fiche, **ficher**. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To put, place. *Où faut-il le mettre?*—*Fichez-le n'importe où*, where shall I put it?—Stick it down anywhere.

(b) *Ficher dedans*, to imprison. *Se faire ficher dedans*, to be put in clink, to get run in.

(c) *Ficher son camp*, to cut away. *Fichez-moi le camp de là*, get away, clear out, cut along, sling your hook. *Maintenant je vais ficher le camp*, now I'm going to hop it.

(d) *Ne pas en ficher un coup*, *une secousse*, not to do a stroke of work, to be an idle dog.

(e) *On vous en fichera! je t'en fichera!* formula of indignation addressed to a person who is not satisfied with a thing. *Tu n'aimes pas ce vin-là? Eh bien, on t'en fichera!* you don't like that wine? Well, don't think you'll get any more of it.

(f) *J't'en fiche!* not at all! by no means! *Tu te figures qu'il est rentré à l'heure? j't'en fiche! à deux heures du matin il n'était pas encore là*, you think he came home in time? nothing of the kind! not a bit of it! he was not back at two in the morning.

(g) *Va te faire fiche!* you be blowed! go to blazes!

2. *vb.intr.* To matter. *Qu'est-ce que ça fiche?* what does it matter? who cares? *Ça ne fiche rien*, it does not matter, we don't care a hang.

3. *vb.pr.* (a) *Se ficher de quelqu'un*, to laugh at, to make a fool of, somebody. *Je crois que vous vous fichez de moi*, I think you are pulling my leg.

(b) *Se ficher de*, not to care for. *Je me fiche de lui*, I don't care a straw for him. *Il se fiche pas mal de ce que je lui dis*, he



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does not care a hang for what I say. (The verb *FICHE* or *FICHER* is a mild form of *FOUTRE*, which takes its place in coarser versions of all the foregoing expressions.)

fichtre, *interj.* Expresses wonder, surprise, admiration, etc. *Combien?*—*Mille francs.*—*Fichtre, ça s'est donné!* how much?—A thousand francs.—Upon my word, by Jove, that's a gift!

fichu, *e*, *adj.* (usually *p.p.* of *FICHE*, *FICHER*.) 1. Lost. *Il est fichu*, it's all up with him, he's a goner.

2. Built, shaped, done. *Bien, mal, fichu*, well-, ill-, shaped or dressed. (Of a thing) *C'est rudement mal fichu*, it's simply bungled.

3. Wretched. *Un fichu temps, un fichu travail*, rotten weather, a rotten job. *Une fichu canaille*, a thorough scamp.

4. Likely. *Il est fichu d'arriver en retard*, I bet he will turn up late, it's quite on the cards that he'll turn up late.

5. Able. *Il n'est pas fichu de faire ce travail*, he is not up to that job.

fier, *ère*, *adj.* Big of its kind. *Il a un fier culot*, he has no end of a cheek. *C'est un fier imbécile*, he is an arrant fool. *Je vous dois une fière chandelle*, I am awfully obliged to you.

fieu, *sb.m.* Fellow. *Un bon fieu*, a good sort. *Être bon fieu*, to be a good fellow (or) good fellows. *Ils sont bons fieux*, they are bricks, easy to get on with.

fifi, *sb.m.* *Être le fifi à son père*, to be his father's darling.

fifille, *sb.f.* *La fifille à sa mère*, her mother's darling.

fiflot, *sb.m.* (Infantry) soldier, private.

fignard, *sb.m.* Anus, buttocks, bum.

figne, *sb.m.* = **FIGNARD**.

fil, *sb.m.* 1. *Avoir le fil*, to be shrewd. (*Lit.* to have an edge, to be sharp.)

2. *N'avoir pas inventé le fil à couper le beurre*, not to be over sharp. *Il n'a pas inventé le fil à couper le beurre*, he will never set the Thames on fire.

3. *Avoir un fil à la patte*, not to be free to do as one would like to. (Chiefly said of a man unable to break away from an old mistress.)

filer. 1. *vb.intr.* (a) To be off, to make tracks.

(b) *Filer doux*, to give in, to sing small.



2. *vb.tr.* (a) *Filer un mauvais coton*, to be in a very bad way. to be going to the bad.

(b) To follow (esp. of a detective). *La police l'a filé trois jours*, he was shadowed for three days by the police.

(c) *Filer le parfait amour avec*, (usually ironical) to be deeply in love with, to pay one's addresses to, to be playing at love's young dream with.

fille, *sb.f.* 1. Bottle of wine.

2. *Jouer la fille de l'air*, to decamp, to hop it.

fillette, *s.f.* Half a bottle of wine.

filocher, *vb.intr.* (= **FILER** 1.) *Filocher devant une corvée*, to shirk a fatigue duty.

filon, *sb.f.* Soft, cushy job. *C'est le filon*, he's got a cushy job. *Ça n'est pas le filon*, it's a rotten job.

filonner, *vb.intr.* To be a shirker.

filonneur, *sb.m.* Shirker, soft-job man.

fil, *sb.m.* 1. *Oui fils!* yes, old boy! yes, old son!

2. *Fils à papa*, one who has influence, who is pushed. *Il sera nommé, c'est un fils à papa*, he'll be appointed, he's pushed you know. (*Lit.* he has a rich, influential father, but also applied to anyone who enjoys the backing of a powerful personage.)

fin, *e*, 1. *adj.* Useful, timely. *La fine blessure*, said during the Great War of a wound not bad enough to endanger one's life, but severe enough to send one to the rear; a 'blighty.'

2. *adv.* Very. *Il était fin saoul*, he was well sprung. Athletes and race-horses are said to be *fin prêts* when training is completed and form excellent; trained to the minute.

fine, *sb.f.* Brandy. *Une fine*, a glass of (good old) brandy. (Abbr. of *fine champagne*.)

fini, *e*, *adj.* Complete, finished (pejorative only). *Un idiot (etc.) fini*, a perfect fool (etc.).

finir, *vb.intr.* 1. *A n'en plus finir*, a great many. *Il y avait des plats à n'en plus finir*, there were no end of dishes.

2. *Avoir fini de* = *avoir fini de se servir de*. *Avez-vous fini du marteau?* have you done, finished, with the hammer?

fiolle, *sb.f.* Head, mug. *Se payer la fiolle de quelqu'un*, to make a fool of somebody. *Avoir soupé de la fiolle de quelqu'un*, to be fed

up with somebody. *J'ai soupé de sa fiole*, he makes me tired.
(*Cp.* BOULE.)

fion, *sb.m.* *Donner un coup de fion à*, to give a finishing touch to, to touch up.

fiston, *sb.m.* *Mon fiston*, familiar form of address, 'sonny.'

fixé, *e*, *adj.* *Ne pas être fixé.* 1. Not to know one's mind.

2. Not to know how to do things, to have funny notions about things. To somebody observing: "Just look what a guy he looks with his yellow tie!", the answer might be, "*Il n'est pas fixé!*" meaning, "Yes, no wonder, his notions about dressing are rather vague," or, "Of course, he is such a queer fellow!"

flafla, *sb.m.* *Faire du flafla*, to make a lot of show.

flambante, *sb.f.* Match, light.

flambé, *e*, *adj.* Lost, ruined. *Je suis flambé!* it's all up with me, I am done for, my number is up!

flambeau, *sb.m.* Any piece of big talk, or puffing advertisement (intended to dazzle the eyes of simple folk).

flambeur, *sb.m.* Sharper at dice.

flan. 1. *sb.m.* *Être, en être, comme deux ronds de flan*, (*lit.* to be like a penn'orth of custard) to be flabbergasted, flummoxed, to have all the stuffing knocked out of one. (*Cp.* *comme deux ronds de frites.*)

2. *A la flan.* (a) Bad, badly. *Travail à la flan, fait à la flan*, bungled work. (b) In a free-and-easy way, in a happy-go-lucky fashion.

flanc, *sb.m.* 1. *Tirer au flanc*, to malingering, to swing the lead, to skrimshank.

2. *Tire-au-flanc, tireur-au-flanc*, slacker, shirker, malingerer, skrimshanker.

flanche, *sb.m.* 1. Speech, showman's patter.

2. Thing, job, business. *Bath flanche!* that's good, that's all right! that's a good job! *C'est pas ton flanche*, that's none of your business.

flancher, *vb.intr.* To be unable to go on, to lack the pluck for something, not to be game, to flinch.

fandrin, *sb.m.* Tall, gawky fellow.

flanelle, *sb.f.* 1. *Faire flanelle.* (a) To visit an establishment (esp. a disorderly house) only for curiosity's sake, and spend

nothing or very little there. (b) Not to perform what one has got to do, to loaf.

2. Bad customer, one who does not spend much.

flanquer, *vb.tr.* A mild form of **FICHER**.

flanquette, *sb.f.* *A la bonne flanquette* (= *franquette*), simply, without showing off, without putting on frills.

flapi, *e*, *adj.* and *p.p.* (Of a person) Tired, enfeebled, knocked up, seedy, chippy. (Of a thing) In bad condition, wobbly, decrepit, wonky.

flapir, *vb.tr.* To tire, exhaust, knock up.

flaupée, *sb.f.* Great quantity (esp. of blows).

flauper, *vb.tr.* To beat, thrash, wallop.

flémard, *e*, *sb.m.* and *adj.* Lazy, sluggard.

flémarder, *vb.intr.* To be lazy, to loaf, to slack about.

flème, *sb.f.* Laziness. *Avoir la flème*, not to feel up to work. *Battre la flème*, to slack about.

flémer, *vb.intr.* To be lazy, to slack about.

Fleur, *la*, *proper name*. Fanciful and friendly nickname for any stranger whom one may have to call to. *Eh, dis-donc, la Fleur!* I say, George!

fleurs blanches, *sb.f.pl.* White mucus discharged from the vagina; the whites.

flic, *sb.m.* Policeman, bobby, copper, beak.

flingot, **flingue**, *sb.m.* Rifle, bundook.

fli(c)quer, *vb.tr.* To arrest, nab, cop.

floppée, *sb.f.* = **FLAUPÉE**.

flopper, *vb.tr.* = **FLAUPER**.

flottard, *sb.m.* Student of the *École Navale*.

flotte, *sb.f.* 1. Water, rain. *Boire de la flotte*, to drink water. *Il tombe de la flotte*, it's raining.

2. Great quantity. *Une flotte de gens*, plenty of people. *Il y en a des flottes*, there are heaps, pots, bags, of them.

flotter, *vb.intr.* To rain.

flouze, *sb.m.* Money, dough, oof, spondulicks.

flûte, *sb.f.* Leg. (*Cp.* pin.) *Jouer des flûtes*, *mettre les flûtes*, to be off, to make tracks. (*Cp.* **BAGUETTES**.)

- flûte**, *interj.* Mild expression of impatience, anger, disappointment, contempt, or refusal: bother! botheration! blow!
- flûter**, *vb.intr.* Envoyer flûter quelqu'un, to send someone to Jericho.
- foie**, *sb.m.* 1. Avoir les foies (blancs), to be a coward, to funk. (*Cp.* to be white-livered.) N'avoir pas les foies blancs, to be bold, plucky, cheeky. Eh bien, il n'a pas les foies blancs! well, he is not short of cheek! (*Cp.* il n'a pas la trouille.)
 2. Avoir les jambes en pâté de foie, to shake with fear, to have the wind up, to be funky.
 3. Manger les foies à quelqu'un, to make mincemeat of one, to spoil his beauty for him, to knock his head off.
- foin**, *sb.m.* 1. Tobacco, baccy.
 2. Faire du foin, to protest vehemently, to make a row, a racket.
- foirade**, *sb.f.* 1. Diarrhoeal excrements.
 2. Act of cowardice,funking.
- foire**, *sb.f.* Colic, diarrhoea. Avoir la foire, (*fig.*) to be funky.
- foirer**, *vb.intr.* 1. To have diarrhoea.
 2. To funk.
 3. (Of shell) To fall without bursting.
- foireux**, *adj.* and *sb.m.* A funk, a squat.
- fois**, *sb.f.* 1. Non mais des fois! expresses indignant refusal. Vous prêter de l'argent? Non mais des fois! lend you money? What do you take me for?
 2. Des fois que, on the supposition that. Des fois que vous viendriez nous dire un petit bonjour, if by any chance you should happen to drop in.
- folichon**, *ne*, *adj.* Merry, gay, frisky, lascivious. Chanson folichonne, yeux folichons, light, frivolous song, wanton eyes. Un petit air folichon, a doggy air. Ça n'est pas folichon, (a) that's rather dull; (b) that is a serious matter, no joke, a bad job.
- footing**, *sb.m.* A false anglicism coined on the pattern of riding, etc. Walking. Faire du footing, to go walking.
- formidable**, *adj.* Wonderful of its kind. The proper acceptation *frightful* is quite unknown in popular (and even in colloquial) French. (*Cp.* awful.)
- fort**, *e.* 1. *adj.* A tailor's or dressmaker's euphemism for 'stout.' Madame est un peu forte pour porter ce genre de robe, means 'Madam, you are too fat to wear that kind of dress.'



2. *adv.* (a) *Y aller fort*, to exaggerate, to lay it on thick.
Il y va fort, il y va un peu fort! he is coming it strong!
(b) *Ne pas aller fort*, (health) not to be very well.

fortische, *sb.m.* A knowing fellow, one who knows the ropes.

fortifes, *sb.f.* Fortifications (of Paris).

fouchtra, *sb.m.* Nickname of an Auvergnat. (From a customary oath in Auvergne. *Cp.* in old French *un God-dam* for an Englishman.)

fouettard, *adj.* *Un père fouettard*, a father who doesn't spare the rod.

fouetter, *vb.intr.* To stink. (*Cp.* COGNER, TAPER.)

fouille, *sb.f.* Pocket.

fouiller, *se*, *vb.pr.* To go through one's pockets. Used in the phrase, *tu peux te fouiller, il peut se fouiller*, nothing doing, don't you wish you may get it, you may whistle for it.

fouillouse, *sb.f.* = FOUILLE.

fouinard, *sb.m.* One who noses about; U.S.: snooper.

fouiner, *vb.intr.* To skulk, ferret, nose around. *Il fouine partout*, he is always sticking his nose into everything, nosing about, U.S.: snooping around.

fouler, *vb.pr.* *Se fouler (la rate)*, *se (la) fouler*, to take pains, to make efforts. *Ne pas se la fouler*, to take it easy. *Il ne s'est pas foulé les méninges pour trouver ça*, he can't have racked his brains to find that out, he did not fret himself much about that job.

foultitude, *sb.f.* Great quantity. (A mixture of *foule*, crowd, and *multitude*.) *Il y en avait des foultitudes*, there were pots, heaps, bags, of them.

four, *sb.m.* 1. Failure. *Faire un four*, (esp. of a play) to fall flat, to flop. *Ç'a été un vrai four*, it was a regular frost, a proper wash-out.

2. *Chauffer le four*, to get drunk, screwed. (*Cp.* CUITE.)

fourbi, *sb.m.* 1. Soldier's kit. *Astiquer son fourbi*, to burnish, clean one's kit.

2. Any collection of things, luggage, kit. *J'ai mis tout mon fourbi dans la malle*, I packed all my belongings in the trunk.

3. Name for things not recollected at the moment: what's its name, thingummy, thingumbob. *Comment appelez-vous ce fourbi-là?* what do you call that gadget? (*Cp.* MACHIN, TRUC.)

4. *Connaître le fourbi*, to know a thing or two, to be up to snuff. *T'inquiète pas, je connais le fourbi*, don't you worry, I'm an old hand.

5. Complicated affair. *Un sale fourbi*, a rotten job. *Un vrai fourbi arabe*, a regular mess. *Un drôle de fourbi*, a rum go.

fourche, *sb.f.* *Au bout d'une fourche!* emphatic refusal. *De l'argent! comptes-y, que je t'en donnerai, au bout d'une fourche!* give you money! I can see myself doing that!

fourchette, *sb.f.* 1. Bayonet. *Aller à la fourchette*, to charge, get one in, go in, with the pig-sticker.

2. (At cards) *Avoir une fourchette, être en fourchette*, to hold a tenace against the leader.

fourgonner. 1. *vb.intr.* To throw things about (in searching), to rummage.

2. *vb.tr.* To do. *Qu'est-ce que tu fourgonnes là?* what's that you're doing?

fourneau, *sb.m.* Noodle, silly ass. (Sometimes *fourneau économique* with the same meaning.)

fourreau, *sb.m.* Trousers, bags.

fouerrer, *vb.tr.* 1. To put. *Fourrez ça par terre*, put that down. *Je ne savais pas où me fouerrer*, I did not know where to hide myself.

2. *Fouerrer dedans*, (a) to put in clink; (b) to deceive, take in.

3. *S'en fouerrer jusque là*, to have a regular tuck in.

4. *Faire une langue fourrée*, to slip one's tongue into another's (lover's) mouth, in kissing; to give pigeon-kisses.

foutaise, *sb.f.* *C'est de la foutaise*, it's nonsense, rubbish, tommy rot.

fouterie, *sb.f.* 1. Thing of slight importance, trifle, rubbish. *C'est de la fouterie*, it's all bosh.

2. Boring, untoward thing or event. *Quelle fouterie!* what a nuisance!

foutre. 1. *vb.tr.* May be used in every expression instead of *FICHE*, *FICHER*, which are its mild forms. (The original meaning, to have sexual intercourse, has been generally lost sight of.) *La foutre mal*, to look ugly, worthless, rotten, shoddy (of persons or things).

2. *interj.* Expresses surprise: gad! by Jove!

foutriquet, *sb.m.* 1. Undersized little fellow, little squirt.

2. Inefficient fellow, duffer, dud.

foutu, *adj.* and *p.p.* = FICHU.

foutument, *adv.* = BOUGREMENT.

frais, *sb.m.pl.* *Arrêter les frais*, *lit.* to stop the expense, *fig.* to stop anything uncalled for, for instance: *Il m'embête ce type-là avec ses visites, je vais lui dire d'arrêter les frais*, that bloke bores me with his visits, I'll tell him to stop it.

frais, *aîche*, *adj.* *Être frais*, (antiphrastic) to be in a fix. *Vous voilà frais!* a nice mess you are in!

fraise, *sb.f.* Head, face. *Se sucrer la fraise*, to powder one's face.

franc, *che*, *adj.* Affording security, safe. *C'est franc*, it's all open and above board. *Ça n'est pas très franc*, it's dangerous, fishy.

François, *proper name.* *Faire le coup du père François à quelqu'un*, to waylay someone and throttle him with a scarf. (*Cp.* for meaning and derivation, 'to burke.')

frangin, *sb.m.* Brother.

frangine, *sb.f.* Sister.

frappe, *sb.f.* Blackguard, cad, rough.

frapper, *se*, *vb.pr.* To worry, to fret, to get flustered. *Il ne se frappe pas*, he's a cool customer.

freluquet, *sb.m.* Frivolous young man, fop, puppy.

frère, *sb.m.* 1. Fellow. *Ils nous barbent ces frères-là!* those blighters get on our nerves.

2. Friend. *T'es un frère!* you're a brick!

fric, *sb.m.* Money, dough, (hence: expense). *Qu'est-ce qu'il faudra lâcher comme fric?* what shall we have to spend? what will the damage be?

fricasser, *vb.tr.* To squander. *Il a fricassé sa fortune avec des femmes*, he's blown all his money on women.

fricassé, *e*, *adj.* Lost. (*Cp.* FLAMBÉ.)

frichti, *sb.m.* Food, grub, dish.

frick, *sb.m.* = FRIC.

fricot, *sb.m.* 1. Stew. *Manger du fricot.*

2. Cooking. *Faire son fricot.*

3. Soft job. *Avoir trouvé le fricot*, to have found a cushy job.

fricoter. 1. *vb.tr.* To work up a scheme, a trick. *Je me demande ce qu'il fricote*, I wonder what he is concocting, what trick he is up to.



2. *vb.intr.* (a) To get illicit spoils, to be a grafter.
(b) To be a shirker.
(c) To feast.

fricoteur, euse, sb.m.f. Shirker.

frigousse, sb.f. 1. Cooking.

2. Feasting.

3. Graft.

frime, sb.f. Imposture, pretence. *Il dit qu'il est malade, mais c'est la frime*, he says he is ill, but he is shamming, it's all bunk.

frimousse, sb.f. Face, phiz.

fringuer, vb.tr. To dress, tog up.

fringues, sb.f.pl. Clothes, togs, duds.

frio, adj. Chilly, nippy, parky.

fripouille, sb.f. and adj. Scoundrel, scamp, cad, blackguard.

fripouillerie, sb.f. Mean action, dirty trick.

frique, sb.m. = FRIC.

frisquet, adj. = FRIO.

frit, e, adj. Lost, done for. (*Cp.* FLAMBÉ, FRICASSÉ.)

frite, sb.f. 1. Fried potato. *Des frites*, chips. *Être comme deux ronds de frites*, to be exceedingly surprised, struck all of a heap. (*Cp.* *être comme deux ronds de flan.*)

2. *Ta gueule, bébé, t'auras une frite!* dry up!

froc, sb.m. 1. Clothing, costume, (without any reference to a monk's gown).

2. Trousers.

frognon, sb.m. Inflammation of the skin between anus and scrotum.

froid, adj. *Ça ne lui fait ni chaud ni froid*, see CHAUD.

fromage, sb.m. *Faire des fromages*, to make cheeses. (A school-girl's game; after turning quickly round and round, the player suddenly sinks to the ground, thus causing the skirt to blow up in the shape of a cheese.)

fromegi, sb.m. (= *fromage*) Cheese.

fromton, sb.m. = FROMEGI.

frottée, sb.f. Thrashing, licking, hiding, dressing down.

froussard, *e*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Cowardly, funky.

frousse, *sb.f.* Funk. *Il n'a pas la frousse*, he hasn't got the wind up, hasn't got cold feet, he's got plenty of pluck.

frusquer, *vb.tr.* To dress, tog up.

frusques, *sb.f.pl.* Clothes, togs, duds.

fuchsia, *sb.m.* Red wine. (*Cp.* red ink.)

fuite, *sb.f.* *La fuite!* interjection meaning 'I am fed up with it,' 'I wish I could be off.' (Esp. used by soldiers with reference to discharge or demobilization.)

fuir, *se*, *vb.pr.* To escape, get away, make tracks.

fumasse, *sb.f.* Anger. *Ça me fiche en fumasse*, it puts my back up, it riles me, U.S.: it gets my goat. *Il était en fumasse*, he was shirty, in a paddy.

fumer, *vb.intr.* To be angry, in a paddy.

fumeron, *sb.m.* Leg (esp. thin and skinny). (*Lit.* bit of charcoal.) *Il ne peut pas se tenir sur ses fumerons*, he can't stand on his pins. (*Cp.* BAGUETTES.)

fumier, *sb.m.* (*Lit.* muck.) Dirty fellow, rotter. *Va-t'en, fumier!* be off, you scum! (Sometimes *de lapin* is added to intensify the insult, rabbit manure being particularly worthless.)

fumiste, *sb.m.* Joker, wag, humbug. *Ne le croyez pas, c'est un fumiste*, don't you believe him, he is a wag, a leg-puller.

fumisterie, *sb.f.* Fraud, sham, deception, humbug.

furibard, *e*, *adj.* Very angry, in a rage.

fusil, *sb.m.* 1. *N'avoir rien dans le fusil*, to have an empty stomach, to have nothing in the bread-basket. *Se coller quelque chose dans le fusil*, to put something in one's belly.

2. *Coucher en chien de fusil*, to curl up in bed. (*Lit.* like the cock of a gun.)

3. *Recevoir un coup de fusil* = *se faire fusiller*. (See FUSILLER 3.)

fusiller, *vb.tr.* 1. To spoil, smash up, to make a mess of. *Attention, vous allez fusiller tout le bazar!* look out, you're going to smash up the whole show!

2. To sell off stolen goods at a low price.

3. To charge an excessive price, to cheat, do. *Tu te feras fusiller dans ce restaurant-là*, they'll fleece you in that restaurant.

G

gabegie, *sb.f.* 1. Foul play. *Il y a là-dessous de la gabegie*, there is some underhand trick, some mean manoeuvre, dirty work, in it.

2. Waste (due to fraud or disorder). *Il y a une gabegie terrible dans cette maison*, the squandering, the waste, in this house is terrible.

gabelou, *sb.m.* Customs officer.

gadiche, *sb.f.* Fall. *Prendre la gadiche*, to come a cropper.

gadin, *sb.m.* Fall. *Ramasser un gadin* = *ramasser une pelle*.

gadoue, *sb.f.* 1. Dirt, mud, slush; night-soil.

2. (*Fig.*) Mean person or set of people, low prostitute, drab.

gadouille, *sb.f.* = GADOUE.

gaffe, *sb.f.* Blunder. *Faire une gaffe*, to make a blunder, U.S. : a break; to drop a brick, to put one's foot in it.

gaffer, *vb.intr.* To blunder, to put one's foot in it.

gaffeur, *euse*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Blunderer.

gaga, *sb.m.* and *adj.* Half-idiotic, soft-witted (*esp.* from old age).
A dotard.

cagneuse, *sb.f.* A prostitute who makes her business a profitable one.

galapiat, *sb.m.* Scoundrel, rascal.

galbeux, *euse*, *adj.* 1. Handsome, well-dressed, rich, well off.

2. Fine, first-rate. *Al. Le spectacle sera galbeux à reluquer*, it will be something ripping to look at.

gal(e)touse, *sb.f.* = GALETTE.

galette, *sb.f.* 1. Money, cash, dough, tin, brass, etc. (*Cp.* AUBER.)

2. Inefficient fellow. *C'est une galette!* he's a duffer!

galetteux, *euse*, *adj.* Well-off.

galipettes, *sb.f.pl.* *Faire des galipettes*, to skylark, gambol, frolic.

galipoteux, *adj.* (*Lit.* full of excrement, *galipot*) Silly, raw. (*Applied to freshmen at Saint-Cyr.*) *Il est fangeux et galipoteux*, he is an unlicked juggins, is ignorant of the habits and ways of the school.



galonnard, *sb.m.* (Contemptuous) Officer. (*Lit.* one who has *galons*, stripes, on his sleeves.)

galop, *sb.m.* Reprimand, wiggling.

galure, *sb.m.* 1. = GALURIN.

2. Gentleman. (As opposed to a workman, who wears a cap.)

galurin, *sb.m.* Hat, tile.

gamberger, *vb.intr.* To think, reflect.

gambilles, *sb.f.* Legs, pins. (*Cp.* BAGUETTES.)

gamelle, *sb.f.* *Ramasser une gamelle*, to come a cropper.

gamin, ine, *sb.m.f.* Young son or daughter in popular speech.

Mon gamin, la gamine, my son, my daughter.

gandin. 1. *sb.m.* Dandy, nut.

2. *adj.* Overdressed, swanky.

garce, *sb.f.* Formerly feminine of *garçon*, boy; now used in bad sense—prostitute, hussy, trollop—also in exclamations like *quelle garce d'existence!* what a rotten existence! *Fils de garce!* (pron. *fid'garce*) *lit.* whore's son, but also used as an interjection: *Fils de garce, ce qu'il fait chaud!* by gad, how hot it is!

garçonnière, *sb.f.* Bachelor's flat.

garde-mites, *sb.m.* Man in charge of military clothing stores. (*Lit.* keeper of the clothes-moths.)

gare, *sb.f.* *A la gare, à la gare, au bout du quai les ballots!* go to blazes! leave me alone!

garé, e, *p.p.* *Garé des voitures*, out of danger or want. *Maintenant il n'a pas besoin de travailler, il est garé des voitures*, now he need not work any more, he's made his pile, he's feathered his nest.

gargote, *sb.f.* 1. Low restaurant.

2. Food, grub.

gargotier, *sb.m.* Keeper of a low cookshop.

garno, *sb.m.* (= *garni*) Furnished apartment; lodging-house.

Vivre, loger, en garno, to live in furnished lodgings.

Gaspard, *proper name.* A trench rat (during the war).

gâteux, euse, *adj.* Silly, feeble-minded, doddering (esp. from old age).

gau, *sb.m.* Louse, crab.

A DICTIONARY OF FRENCH SLANG

gauche, *sb.f.* 1. *Passer l'arme à gauche*, to die, to peg out, to go west.

2. *Jusqu'à la gauche*, very much, down to the ground, up to the hilt. *Je rouspèterai jusqu'à la gauche*, I'll kick up a deuce of a row. *Ton copain jusqu'à la gauche*, yours to a cinder. *J'irai jusqu'à la gauche*, I'll go the whole hog.

gaufre, *sb.f.* 1. *Moule à gaufres*, duffer. (*Lit.* waffle-iron.) Chiefly used as an insult: *Va donc, eh, moule à gaufres!*

2. *Se sucrer la gaufre*, to powder one's face. (*Lit.* to sprinkle one's waffle with sugar.)

gaz, *sb.m.* 1. *Plein gaz*, at full speed.

2. *Mettre le gaz*, to skedaddle, to hop it. (*Cp.* GAZER 1.)

gazer, *vb.intr.* 1. (*Motoring*) To speed, *U.S.*: to step on the gas.

2. To work well. *Ça gaze!* it's going all right, tip-top, A1.

3. To get dangerous. *Ça va gazer*, there is going to be some trouble or danger, look out for squalls. (*Cp.* BARDER.)

4. To stink, to hum.

gazon, *sb.m.* *N'avoir plus de gazon sur la plate-bande*, to have a bladder of lard, to be completely bald.

gazouiller, *vb.intr.* To stink, to hum. (*Cp.* COGNER.)

gendarme, *sb.m.* 1. Red herring.

2. = SENTINELLE.

3. *Dormir en gendarme*, to sleep a dog's sleep.

4. Woman of masculine strength, amazon.

générale, *sb.f.* *Faire la générale*, (at cards) to win every trick.

genou, *sb.m.* 1. *Faire du genou*, to push slightly with the knee under the table. (Chiefly as an amorous overture.)

2. Bald skull.

3. *Genou-creux*, shirker, soft-jobber.

genre, *sb.m.* 1. *Faire du genre*, to look affected, snobbish, to give oneself high-falutin airs.

2. *Très peu de ce genre!* formula of emphatic refusal. *Re-piquer au truc? Non, très peu de ce genre!* join the army again? Not for Joe! Not blooming likely!

genreux, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Fond of assuming finicking airs; swanker. (See GENRE.) (*Cp.* CHICHI.)

gi, *affirmative particle.* Yes.

gibier, *sb.m.* *Sale gibier*, low people, rag-tag, scum. *Gibier de potence*, jail-bird.

gigolette, *sb.f.* 1. Girl who frequents low dancing-halls.

2. Mistress (chiefly of a gigolo).

3. Prostitute, moll.

gigolo. 1. *sb.m.* (a) Lover.

(b) Fancy man, *amant de cœur* of a prostitute.

2. *adj.* Fine, beautiful, first-rate.

gigue, *sb.f.* Leg, pin.

gingin, *sb.m.* *Avoir du gingin*, to be clever, up to snuff, to know the ropes.

ginginer, *vb.intr.* 1. To ogle.

2. *Ginginer des hanches*, to walk with a lascivious swaying of the hips.

girafe, *sb.f.* *Peigner la girafe*, (ironical formula) to be idle, to shirk, slack about. *Où est-ce qu'il est cet animal-là?—Il peigne la girafe!* what's the beggar up to now?—He's swinging the lead!

guries, *sb.f.pl.* Grimaces, pretence, sham. *Faire des guries*, to make a lot of fuss. *Ne fais pas tant de guries!* don't you put on so many airs!

giroflée, *sb.f.* *Giroflée à cinq feuilles, à cinq branches*, slap in the face. (*Cp.* bunch of fives, the hand.)

girond, e, *adj.* Pretty, comely, graceful, well-shaped and plump. *Elle est gironde*, she is crummy, hugsome. (Scotch: 'sonsy.')

glasse, *sb.m.* Drink. *Payer un glasse*, to stand a drink.

glaude, *sb.m.* and *adj.* Simpleton, muff, etc.

glaviot, *sb.m.* Expectoration, gob.

gloire, *sb.f.* *Prêt à partir pour la gloire*, drunk, half-seas over. (*Cp.* 'glorious.')

gloria, *sb.m.* Cup of coffee with brandy or rum.

gluant, *sb.m.* Baby.

gnangnan, *adj.* Namby-pamby, soppy.

gniaf, *sb.m.* 1. Cobbler.

2. Bad workman, botcher.

3. Dirty dog, rotter.

gn(i)asse, *adj.* *Mon gniasse, ton gniasse, etc.*, me, you, etc. *Ça, c'est pour mon gniasse*, this is for number one.

gn(i)ole, gn(i)ôle. 1. *adj.* Silly. *Il n'est pas gniole*, he's no fool.

2. *sb.f.* Brandy.



gniolerie, *sb.f.* Silly thing, nonsense.

gnognotte, *sb.f.* Worthless thing, rubbish. *Ça n'est pas de la gnognotte!* it's something like!

gnon, *sb.m.* Blow, clout, biff. *Coller un gnon sur la gueule (à quelqu'un)*, to land (somebody) one on the mug.

go, *sb.m.* = GAU.

gobelotter, *vb.intr.* To tipple.

gober. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To accept (statement) with ready credulity, to swallow. *Je ne gobe pas ça*, I can't swallow that.

(b) To love, to be potty on. *Je ne le gobe pas*, I'm not keen on him, (and even) I've a down on him.

2. *vb.pr.* To have a good opinion of oneself. *Il se gobe*, he suffers from a swelled head.

goberger, *se, vb.pr.* To live in clover. *Il n'a rien à faire qu'à se goberger aux frais de la princesse*, all he has to do is to enjoy himself, to live like a fighting-cock, at the public expense.

gobeur, *euse, sb.m.f. and adj.* Gullible person, gull, flat.

godailler, *vb.intr.* To live wantonly, to riot, to tipple.

godasse, *sb.f.* 1. Boot, beetle-crusher.

2. Popular pronunciation of *gothas*, German aeroplanes.

godet, *sb.m.* A glass. *Prendre un godet*, to have a drink.

godiche, *adj.* Silly, awkward, boobyish. *Ce qu'il a l'air godiche!* doesn't he look soppy?

godille, *sb.f.* (Cycling) *Aller à la godille* = RAMER.

godillot, *sb.m.* Boot, beetle-crusher.

gogo, *sb.m.* Credulous person, gull, flat.

gogo, à, *adv.* *Avoir à gogo*, to have plenty to spare, *ad.lib.*, galore.

gogues, *sb.m.pl.* Privy, bog.

goguenots, *sb.m.pl.* = GOGUES.

goguette, *sb.f.* *En goguette*, out with a girl, on the spree.

gomme, *sb.f.* 1. *Faire de la gomme*, to be a dandy, a fop, a masher.

2. *La haute gomme*, the upper crust.

gommeux, *euse, sb.m.f.* Dandy, tip-topper.

gonce, *sb.m.* Man, fellow, bloke, cove.

goncier, *sb.m.* 1. = GONCE.

2. A fellow fond of women.



gondolant, e, adj. Very comical, screaming, etc. (*Cp.* BIDONNANT.)

gondoler, se, vb.tr. To amuse oneself very much, to have a good laugh. (*Cp.* SE BIDONNER.)

gonflant, e, adj. = BIDONNANT.

gonflé à bloc, adj. Of a cyclist, full of strength and energy. (*Cp.* the seemingly equivalent *avoir un coup de pompe.*)

gonfler, se, vb.pr. To laugh uproariously, to laugh fit to split. (*Cp.* SE BIDONNER.)

gonze, sb.m. = GONCE.

gonzesse, sb.f. Woman, girl, tart.

gorge, sb.f. *Donnez-moi quelque chose pour la gorge*, give us a gargle, something for the tonsils. (Jocular way of ordering, or asking for, a drink. The pun consists in the medical suggestion of the expression *pour la gorge*. At the chemist's the same formula would mean 'give me something for a sore throat.' *Cp.* the English 'what's your medicine?')

gosse. 1. *sb.m.f.* (a) Child, kid.

(b) Term of endearment, darling, duck, kiddie.

(c) *Être beau (belle) gosse*, to be nice-looking. *Il est beau gosse*, he's a fine fellow. *Elle est belle gosse*, she's a nice bit of goods.

2. *adj.* Young, immature, green.

gosseline, sb.f. Little girl.

got, sb.m. = GAU.

goualante, sb.f. Song.

goualer. 1. *vb.tr.* To sing. *Goualer une chanson*, to bawl out a song.

2. *vb.intr.* To cry.

gouape, sb.f. and adj. Cad, blackguard.

gouaper, vb.intr. To lead the life of a cad.

gougnote, sb.f. Lesbian.

gouine, sb.f. = GOUGNOTE.

goule, sb.f. Mouth.

goulée, sb.f. Mouthful.

goulot, sb.f. Mouth, gullet. *Repousser du goulot*, to have a foul breath.

goulu, adj. Greedy.

goupiller. 1. *vb.tr.* To do, manage, contrive.

2. *vb.pr.* *Je ne sais pas comment ça se goupille*, I don't know how it is done, managed. *Je vais te montrer comment ça se goupille*, I'll show you the knack of it, how to wangle it.

goupillon, *sb.m.* *Le sabre et le goupillon*, the army and the priests. (*Lit.* the sword and the holy-water sprinkler.)

gourance, *sb.f.* *Avoir des gourances*, to be afraid, to rather think, to suspect.

gourbi, *sb.f.* House, shelter, funk-hole.

gourde, *sb.f.* and *adj.* Stupid, clumsy fellow, dolt, juggins. (*Cp.* CORNICHON.)

gourer. 1. *vb.tr.* To deceive.

2. *vb.pr.* (a) To make a blunder.

(b) To suspect, to rather think. *Je m'en gourais*, I thought as much.

goût, *sb.m.* 1. *Faire passer le goût du pain à quelqu'un*, to kill, murder, someone, to settle someone's hash.

2. *Perdre le goût du pain*, to die, to lay down one's knife and fork, to peg out. (*Cp.* ARME.)

goutte, *sb.f.* 1. *Boire la goutte.* (a) (Of baby) To suck.

(b) To be a drunkard, to booze.

(c) To be drowned.

(d) To go to the dogs.

2. *N'y voir goutte*, to be in the dark (*lit.* and *fig.*)

grabuge, *sb.m.* Disturbance, tumult, row. *Il y aura du grabuge*, there will be ructions.

gradaille, *sb.f.* (Contemptuous) Officers and N.C.O.'s.

grade, *sb.m.* *J'en ai pris pour mon grade*, I had my full share of it (hardships, insults, etc.). *Qu'est-ce qu'il a pris pour son grade!* he's got a rare talking to!

grafigner, *vb.tr.* To scratch. (*Dialect.*)

graine, *sb.f.* 1. *En prendre de la graine*, to imitate some way of doing a thing. *J'en prendrai de la graine*, I will do just the same in future.

2. *Tu m'en donneras de la graine!* ironical formula meaning that the thing referred to is a sorry one and that one would not care to have the like (the seed) of it.

graisse, *sb.f.* 1. Money, dough, dibs, etc. (*Cp.* AUBER.)



2. *A la graisse* (d'oie, de chevaux de bois, de hareng saur), bad, worthless of its kind. *Des boniments à la graisse d'oie*, empty arguments, bosh, tommy rot.

3. *Vol à la graisse*, swindling practice about railway stations at the expense of new-comers on the pretence of getting them a job. *Ils auront la graisse, ils n'auront pas la peau!* they can make me (us) rough it, they won't beat us!

graisseur, *sb.m.* Cook.

grande fille, *sb.f.* *Être grande fille*, to have one's menses.

grandiose, *adj.* Large, important, etc.

grappin, *sb.m.* Hand. *Mettre le grappin sur*, to lay hold of, to find out. *Je n'ai jamais pu mettre le grappin dessus*, I could never get my hands on him.

gras, *adj.* *Il n'y a pas gras*, there is not much (profit, etc.).

grassouillet, *ette*, *adj.* Lewd. *Des histoires grassouillettes*, indecent, spicy, smutty, full-flavoured, stories.

gratin, *sb.m.* 1. The best of anything, the pick of the basket.

2. The upper classes, the upper crust.

gratte, *sb.f.* Illicit profits, pickings, graft, cabbage. *Faire de la gratte*, to get pickings, to graft.

gratte-cul, *sb.m.* Fruit of wild rose, hip. (If eaten, supposed to cause the feeling suggested by the name.)

gratte-papier, *sb.m.* Quill-driver, pen-pusher.

gratter. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To beat in a contest, to outdo. *Il s'est fait gratter par X*, he's been licked by X.

(b) To make illicit profits, to graft.

(c) *Tu peux te gratter*, you may whistle for it.

(d) Shave. *Se faire gratter*, to get shaved. (Cp. to shave, from O.E. sceafan = to scratch.)

2. *vb.intr.* To work.

grec, *sb.m.* Sharper.

grelots, *sb.m.pl.* *Avoir les grelots*, to be afraid, to funk. (From *grelotter*, to shiver.)

greluchon, *sb.m.* Fancy man, esp. a young one.

grenouillard, *sb.m.* Teetotaller.

grenouille, *sb.f.* 1. Prostitute, trollop.

2. *Manger la grenouille*, to scoop the till.

3. *Sirop de grenouille*, water, Adam's ale.

grifton, griffeton, *sb.m.* Infantryman, foot-slogger.

grignolet, *sb.m.* Bread.

griller. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) *Griller une cigarette, en griller une*, to have a smoke.

(b) To denounce. (*Cp.* GRILLÉ.)

2. *vb.intr.* *Griller d'envie, d'impatience*, to be on tenterhooks.

grillé, e, *adj.* and *p.p.* Finished. (*Cp.* BRÛLÉ.)

grimpant, *sb.m.* 1. Trousers, bags.

2. *Avoir du grim pant*, (of a girl) to be alluring, fascinating.

grimper, *vb.intr.* *Faire grimper (à l'arbre)*, to make a fool of, to humbug. (*Cp.* *faire monter à l'échelle, faire marcher.*)

grinche, *sb.m.* Thief, burglar.

grincher, *vb.tr.* and *intr.* To be a professional thief.

griveton, *sb.m.* = GRIFTON.

grognasse, *sb.f.* (Contemptuous) Woman, trollop, trull, bitch.

grolle, *sb.f.* 1. Boot.

2. *Avoir les grolles*, to funk, to make tracks.

gros. 1. *sb.m.pl.* *Les gros*, the upper classes, the nobles.

2. *adv.* *Elle se fait du mauvais sang gros comme elle*, she frets herself to death.

gros-cul, *sb.m.* Coarse army tobacco.

grosse, *sb.f.* Military prison. *Faire de la grosse*, to be in prison. (*Cp.* CAISSE.)

grouiller, se, *vb.pr.* To make haste. *Grouillez-vous!* look sharp! get a move on! let me hear from you! stir your stumps!

groumer, *vb.intr.* To grumble, grouse.

grouper, *vb.tr.* To steal, to scrounge. *On m'a groupé ma pipe*, somebody's collared my pipe.

grue, *sb.f.* Prostitute, tart, demirep.

gruère, *sb.m.* Pop. pron. of *gruyère* (in *fromage de Gruyère*).

guenipe, *sb.f.* Dirty, slatternly woman, prostitute of the lowest class.

guêtre, *sb.f.* *Traîner ses guêtres*, to wander, rove. *Il a traîné ses guêtres un peu partout*, he's knocked about pretty well all over the world, all over the place.

gueulard, e, *adj.* 1. Fond of bawling.

2. Glutton, greedy-guts.

gueule, *sb.f.* Mouth, jaw, face, mug (various expressions).

1. (*Ferme*) *ta gueule!* dry up!

2. *Faire la gueule*, to sulk, to pull a long face.

3. *Avoir de la gueule*, to have the gift of the gab.

4. *Se saouler la gueule* (= *se saouler*), to get drunk, sprung, tight, etc.

5. *Casser la gueule à quelqu'un*, to pitch into someone, to bash someone's face.

6. *Se taper la gueule*, to get drunk, to have a blow-out.

7. *Avoir la gueule de bois*, to feel seedy after a spree, to have a tongue like the bottom of a parrot's cage, to feel like the morning after.

8. *Porté sur la gueule*, fond of dainty food.

9. *Gueule noire*, nickname of an engine-driver.

gueulement, *sb.m.* Shout.

gueuler, *vb.intr.* To shout, bawl, protest. *Gueuler comme un putois, comme une baleine, comme un voleur*, to kick up a dickens of a shine.

gueuleton, *sb.m.* Tuck in, blow-out.

gueuletonner, *vb.intr.* To have a blow-out.

Gugusse. 1. *proper name*. Pop. dim. of *Auguste*.

2. *sb.m.* The 'funny man' in a circus.

guibolle, *sb.f.* Leg. *Ne pas tenir sur ses guibolles*, to be shaky on one's pins.

guiche, *sb.f.* 1. = ACCROCHE-CŒUR.

2. Curl worn by women near the ears, kiss-me-quick, kiss-curl.

guichet, *sb.m.* Battlement in a trench.

guignard, e, *adj.* Unlucky.

guigne, *sb.f.* 1. Bad luck. *Avoir la guigne*, to be unlucky, to have a run of bad luck.

2. *S'en moquer comme d'une guigne*, not to care a fig for it. (*Lit.* not to care a black cherry for it.)

guignol, *sb.m.* Constable.

guignon, *sb.m.* = GUIGNE 1.

guimbarde, *sb.f.* Carriage (esp. a rickety one), shandrydan.

guinche, *sb.m.* Low dancing-hall.



guincher, *vb.intr.* To dance.

guitare, *sb.f.* *C'est toujours la même guitare*, he's always harping on the same string.

guitoune, *sb.f.* 1. Dug-out, funk-hole.
2. Home, house.

gy, *affirmative participle.* (= GI) Yes.

gym, *sb.f.* Abbr. of *gymnastique*. *Pas de gym*, double quick pace, the double.

H

hambourgeois, *sb.m.* Detective. (A pun on *agent en bourgeois*, in mufti.)

haricot, *sb.m.* *Courir sur l'haricot*, see COURIR.

harnacher, *se, vb.pr.* To dress oneself.

harnais, *sb.m.* Clothes, togs. (Chiefly of a prostitute, whose dress is a professional equipment.)

hareng, *sb.m.* Pimp, ponce. (*Cp.* MAQUEREAU.) *Peau d'hareng* is used as a term of contempt or abuse.

haute, *sb.f.* *La haute, les gens de la haute*, the upper classes, the upper crust, the toffs.

hauteur, *sb.f.* 1. *A la hauteur*, equal to the task, up to the job.
2. *Des gens à la hauteur*, well-off people.

heure, *sb.f.* 1. *S'embêter à vingt, à cent, francs de l'heure*, to be bored to death. (*Cp.* BARBER 2.)

2. *A c't'heure*, now (often expletive or exclamatory). *Voilà qu'il veut s'en aller à c't'heure!* well now, he's wanting to go—imagine it! (or) you don't mean you want to go, do you?

3. *L'heure perdue, la bête la cherche*, jocular reply to somebody asking the time. (*Lit.* the time is lost, the booby is looking for it.) (*Cp.* half past kissing time, it's time to kiss again.)

histoire, *sb.f.* 1. *Faire bien des histoires*, to make a lot of fuss.

2. *S'attirer une histoire*, to get into a scrape.

3. *Quelle sale histoire!* what a mess! here's a pretty kettle of fish.

4. *La belle (bonne) histoire!* expresses ironical denial or jocu-

lar assent to a truism. (a) *Elle n'a pas plus de trente ans? La bonne histoire!* she is not over thirty? Tell that to the marines! What a tale!

(b) *Il était épuisé après ce voyage-là? La bonne histoire!* he was exhausted after that long journey? No wonder! I should think he was!

(c) *Il a fait ça en deux heures? La belle histoire!* it only took him two hours to do it? Well, that's nothing to write home about!

5. Thing. *Je me demande comment ça fonctionne cette histoire-là?* I wonder how that gadget, jigger, works?

6. *prep. phrase.* *Histoire de*, in order to. *Histoire de rire*, for a joke, just for fun.

hiviot, *sb.m.* (= *hiver*) Winter.

homme, *sb.m.* Husband, lover. (Curiously enough *mon homme* sounds very coarse to well-bred ears, whereas *ma femme* is perfectly correct for 'my wife.' On the other hand, *dame* for 'wife' is a middle-class vulgarity.)

horizontale, *sb.f.* Prostitute, fast woman (esp. of high grade), demirep.

hosteau, **hosto**, *sb.m.* Hospital.

huile, *sb.f.* 1. *Huile de bras*, *huile de coude*, labour, industry, elbow grease.

2. *Huile de cotret*, stirrup-oil, thrashing.

3. *pl.* (a) Official personages, big pots, big bugs.

(b) *Être dans les huiles*, to be backed up.

huit, *num.adj.* 1. *Les trois huit*, *la journée des trois huit*, a day made up of three parts, one for sleep, one for work, one for leisure. (The old trade-union formula.)

2. *Cinq et trois font huit*, see CINQ 3.

huitre, *sb.f.* 1. A fool, silly person, a flat. (*Cp.* MOULE.)

2. Gob.

huppé, *e*, *adj.* *Des gens huppés*, people of high position, swells, nobs.

hure, *sb.f.* Head, mug.

hurfe, *adj.* First-rate, tip-top, chic.

hynoptiser, *vb.tr.* Pop. pronunciation of *hypnotiser*.

I

impasse, *sb.f.* (Bridge) *Faire une impasse*, to finesse.

incendié, *e*, *adj.* = BRÛLÉ.

indic, *sb.m.* (= *indicateur*) Police-spy, nark.

indisposée, *adj.* Having her menses, unwell.

infect, *adj.* *Un type infect*, a putrid fellow. *Un temps infect*, beastly weather.

infectados, *sb.m.* Cheap cigar, cabbage leaf, stinkador. (*Infect* with jocular Spanish ending.) (*Cp.* GRAPULOS.)

inodore, *adj.* *Rester calme et inodore*, jocular stock phrase: to take things calmly, to keep one's hair on.

installer, *vb.intr.* To boast, brag, put on side, show off.

intéressant, *e*, *adj.* *Être dans un état intéressant*, to be in the family way, in an interesting condition.

Intran, *proper name.* = *l'Intransigeant*, the Paris evening paper.

introduire, *vb.tr.* *L'introduire à quelqu'un*, to deceive someone, to take somebody in. *On a essayé de me l'introduire*, they tried to cod me, to put it across me. *Faut pas essayer de me l'introduire!* it's no good trying it on with me!

itou, *adv.* Also. *Et puis moi itou*, and me too.

J

jabot, *sb.m.* Stomach. *N'avoir rien dans le jabot*, to have an empty belly.

jaboter, *vb.intr.* To chatter, gossip, to spin a yarn.

jaboteur, *euse*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* One fond of jabbering.

jacob, *sb.m.* Clay pipe the bowl of which is moulded in the shape of a head.

Jacques, *proper name.* *Faire le Jacques*. 1. To act the fool, to play the goat.

2. To try (vainly) to be funny. *Ne fais pas le Jacques!* don't be funny!



jac(que)ter, *vb.intr.* To speak.

jambe, *sb.f.* 1. *Tenir la jambe*, to bore. *La jambe!* what a bore!

2. *Ça me, vous, lui, etc., fera une belle jambe!* (ironical) I, you, he, etc., won't be any better off than before. *Il est mort, mais on lui fera un bel enterrement.*—*Ça lui fera une belle jambe!* he is dead, but he will have a beautiful funeral.—And a lot of good that will do him!

3. *Trois pouces de jambes et le cul tout de suite*, see **CUL**.

jamber, *vb.tr.* To bore.

jambonner, *vb.tr.* 1. *Jambonner le blair*, to bruise the nose with blows. *Je lui jambonnerai le blair*, I'll knock his head off, bash his face in.

2. To bore.

jardiner, *vb.tr.* To criticize, run down. (*Cp.* **BÊCHER**.)

jars, *sb.m.* Slang. 1. *Dévider le jars*, to talk slang.

2. *Entendre le jars*, (*fig.*) to be knowing, cute.

jaspiner, *vb.intr.* To talk, chatter.

Jesus, *proper name.* (= *Jésus*) Term of endearment.

jaune, *sb.m.* 1. (*a*) Non-union workman.

(*b*) A rat, a blackleg, a scab.

2. *Être peint en jaune*, to be a cuckold. (Yellow is supposed to be the symbolic colour of cuckolds.)

jaunet, *sb.m.* Twenty-franc coin. (*Cp.* yellow-boy, canary, = a sovereign.)

javanais, *sb.m.* Special language in vogue about 1860, the principle of which consists in introducing certain syllables into the words, especially *pi*, *av*, or *va*. For instance, *oiseau* becomes *av-ois-av-eau*, or *oi-pi-seau-pi*. (*Cp.* back slang, *elrig* for girl, *dunop* for pound; *nammow* for woman, etc.)

javotte, *sb.f.* Talkative woman.

jeanfoudre, *sb.m.* Rascal, dirty dog, rotter.

jeanjean, *sb.m.* Simpleton, ninny.

Jeanneton, *proper name.* *Elle est comme la poupée de Jeanneton, elle n'a ni cul (or hanches), ni fesses, ni tétons*, rhyming stock phrase applied to a woman who is the reverse of buxom.

je-m'en-fichisme, (**-foutisme**), *sb.m.* (Political) indifference to questions of the day, political indifferentism.

je-m'en-fichiste, (**-foutiste**), *sb.m.* and *adj.* Political indiffer-



entist; person who doesn't care a hang about anybody or anything.

jeter, *vb.tr.* 1. *N'en jetez plus (la cour est pleine)!* don't go on, that'll do! draw it mild! (Often said to a person who is lavish of praise.)

2. *En jeter un coup*, to make an effort. *Allons, jetez-en un coup!* get on with it! put a jerk in it! put some vim into it! Also used absolutely: *le moulin en jetait terriblement*, the engine was racing like mad.

3. *Ça, c'est jeté!* well said! that's the stuff to give him! (*Cp.* MILLE.)

jeune, *adj.* Too small, too short, scanty. *Cette planche ne fera pas l'affaire, c'est un peu jeune*, this board won't do, it's a bit short.

jeunot, *sb.m.* and *adj.* Inexperienced young fellow. *C'est (un) jeunot*, he's a Johnny Raw.

ji, *affirmative particle.* Yes.

job, *sb.m.* 1. *Monter le job à.* (a) To deceive, dupe, diddle, take in. *On lui a monté le job*, he has been coddled, they have humbugged him.

(b) To excite the anger of, to work upon. *On leur a monté le job, c'est pourquoi ils font grève*, they have been worked up, that's why they are striking.

2. *Se monter le job*, to deceive, delude, oneself, to work oneself up.

jobard, *sb.m.* and *adj.* Gullible fellow, muff, mug.

jobarder, *vb.tr.* To dupe, deceive.

joint, *sb.m.* *Trouver le joint*, to manage to do something, to find the proper move, to get the hang, the knack of it.

Jo(jo), *proper name.* Dim. of *Georges* and *Joseph*.

joli. 1. *sb.m.* *C'est du joli! c'est du propre!* ironical formulas expressing indignation or disgust at some action or state of things: a nice state of things! a pretty mess we (etc.) are in! this is simply shameful! a pretty pickle!

2. *adj.* (a) Popularly used in the meaning so beautiful and even grand. *Ce coucher de soleil sur l'océan, c'était joli*, that sunset over the sea was a pretty thing.

(b) *Tu serais joli!* a pretty mess you'd be in!

(c) *Un joli cochon, salaud, etc.*, a nice (kind of) rotter.

jonc, *sb.m.* Money. *Avoir du jonc*, to be flush.

- Joseph**, *proper name*. Nickname of a chaste man, a Joseph.
- Joséphine**, *proper name*. *Faire sa Joséphine*, to play the prude.
- jouer**, *vb.tr.* 1. *En jouer (un air)*, *jouer des flûtes*, *jouer la fille de l'air*, to be off, to make tracks, to hop it.
 2. *Jouer un pied de cochon à quelqu'un*, to play a dirty trick on someone, to leave someone badly in the lurch.
- joues**, *sb.f.* *Se caler les joues*, to eat.
- jourir**, *vb.intr.* 1. To feel sexual excitement in coition.
 2. (Antiphrastic) To feel uneasy, angry (at being teased), to be in a rage.
- jouissance**, *sb.f.* Sexual excitement in coition, orgasm.
- joujou**, *sb.m.* (Child's word.) Plaything, toy. *Faire joujou avec quelque chose*, to play with something.
- jour**, *sb.m.* 1. *Il est long comme un jour sans pain*, he's a regular lamp-post, he's a long string of misery.
 2. *Au jour d'aujourd'hui*, redundant expression current in popular French: nowadays.
- joyeux**, *sb.m.* Soldier serving in the *bataillons d'Afrique*. (Punishment regiment in Africa called *bat'd'af*.)
- J't'arquinche**, *proper name*. *La Maison J't'arquinche*, the Prefecture of Police.
- jugeotte**, *sb.f.* Common sense. *Avoir de la jugeotte*, to be sensible.
- Jules**, *proper name*. Chamber-pot, jerry.
- Julie**, *proper name*. *Faire sa Julie*, to put on prudish, affected manners. (Cp. *faire sa Sophie*.)
- Julot**, *proper name*. Pop. dim. of *Jules*.
- jumelles**, *sb.f.pl.* *Les jumelles*, the buttocks.
- jus**, *sb.m.* 1. Coffee. *Au jus!* morning call announcing to soldiers that coffee is ready. *Aller au jus*, (a) to go for the coffee; (b) to go over the top, to attack.
 2. Water. *Tomber dans le jus*, to fall into the water.
 3. *Avoir du jus*, to be handsome, chic.
 4. *Valoir le jus*, to be worth while.
 5. *Y mettre du jus*, to put some vim into it.
 6. Speech (chiefly a long one). *Faire un jus*, to spout.
- jusqu'aboutiste**, *sb.m.f. and adj.* One who, during the Great War, was determined to see it through to victory; whole-hogger; die-hard, last-ditcher.



juste, *adj.* *Comme de juste*, of course, as a matter of fact.

juteux, *sb.m.* (= *adjutant*) N.C.O.

jy, *affirmative particle*. Yes.

K

kasba, **kasbah**, *sb.f.* House.

kif-kif, *adj.* and *adv.* Same, likewise. *C'est kif-kif, c'est kif-kif bourricot*, it's just the same, it does not make any difference, it's six of one and half a dozen of the other, much of a muchness, tweedledum and tweedledee.

kiki, *sb.m.* Adam's apple, throttle. *Serrer le kiki à quelqu'un*, to strangle, to throttle, someone.

kile, *sb.m.* = KILO.

kilo, *sb.m.* Litre. *Payer un kilo*, to stand a man a pint.

klaxon, *sb.m.* Electric motor-horn.

klebs, *sb.m.* = CLEBS.

koxnoff, *adj.* = CHOCHOSOFF. Fine of its kind, first-rate, topping.

L

la, **le**, *def.art.* 1. Substituted for *une*, *un* in such sentences as *prendre la purge*, *la pilule*, *tu auras la volée*, *boire la bleue*. This use of the definite article is felt to give force to the sentence, very likely from a sense of referring to a well-known (and consequently more concrete) object. *Je vais prendre une bleue* would mean 'I'm going to take a certain drink which is called *bleue* (an *absinthe*),' whereas *la bleue* calls up that particular drink which is familiar (and dear) to the speaker. The definite article may also express here the sentiment on the part of the speaker that drinking *la bleue* has something of an established practice.

là, *adv.* *Être là*, *un peu là*, to be strong, clever, reliable, etc. (*Cp.* to be all there.) *Je suis là pour un coup*, you may rely upon me, I am ready to lend a hand.

labo, *sb.m.* (= *laboratoire*) Laboratory.



lac, *sb.m.* *Être dans le lac*, to be a failure (thing or person). *Mon projet est dans le lac maintenant*, my scheme is gone to smash now. *Je suis dans le lac*, it's all up with me. (This is a corruption of the old expression *être (tomber) dans le lacs* (Latin, *laqueus*), to fall into the snare, where the *c* was not sounded. The word *lacs* with the modern tendency to orthographic pronunciation has come to be mistaken for *lac* = lake.)

lâcher, *vb.tr.* 1. To leave in the lurch.

2. *Lâcher de l'eau*, to make water.

lâcheur, *euse*, *sb.m.f.* Unreliable person, one who leaves his friends in the lurch.

laine, *sb.f.* *Jambe de laine*, weak leg.

laïus, *sb.m.* Speech, lecture.

laïusser, *vb.intr.* To make a speech, to spout.

laïusseau, *sb.m.* One fond of talking, a spouter.

lame, *sb.f.* Knife (*lit.* blade). *Ils l'ont tué à coups de lame*, they knifed him to death.

lampe, *sb.f.* *S'en mettre plein la lampe*, to eat greedily, to have a blow out.

lampée, *sb.f.* Draught, swig.

lance, *sb.f.* Water, rain.

lance-pierres, *sb.f.* Rifle, bundook.

lancequinade, *sb.f.* Ceaseless rain.

lancequiner, *vb.intr.* 1. To rain.

2. To weep.

langue, *sb.f.* *Langue fourrée*, see **FOURRER** 4.

lanlaire. *Envoyer faire lanlaire*, *envoyer se faire lanlaire*, to send to Jericho.

lansquiner, *vb.intr.* = **LANCEQUINER**.

lanterner. 1. *vb.intr.* To dilly-dally.

2. *vb.tr.* To put (someone) off, to postpone (an engagement).

lapin, *sb.m.* (Various expressions.) 1. *Poser un lapin à quelqu'un*, not to keep an appointment. (Generally, not to keep one's word.)

2. *Ne pas valoir un pet de lapin*, to be absolutely worthless, not to be worth a tinker's damn.

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3. *Faire le coup du lapin*, see COUP.
4. *Mon vieux lapin*, old chap, old cock, old boy.
5. *Un rude lapin*, a tough one.
6. Term of endearment, 'bunny.'
7. *Je le tuerai comme un lapin*, I'll shoot him like a rat.
8. *Sentir le lapin*, to smell fuggy.
9. *C'est le lapin qui a tort* (or) *qui a commencé*, ironical stock phrase meaning that of two adversaries the weaker is looked upon as to blame.
10. *Aller, voyager, se mettre, en lapin*, (i) to sit beside the coachman, (ii) to sit bodkin.
- larbin**, *sb.m.* (Usually contemptuous.) Male servant, liveried servant, footman, Jeames, flunkiey.
- lard**, *sb.m.* 1. Human flesh, body. (*Cp.* bacon.) *Rentrer dans le lard*, to attack. *Je vais lui rentrer dans le lard*, I'll give him one to go on with, I'll punch into him.
2. *Tête de lard*, (insult of vague meaning) ugly phiz; stupid, dull, fat-headed, fellow.
- lardon**, *sb.m.* Baby, brat.
- largeurs**, *sb.f.* *Dans les grandes largeurs*, extremely, very much, in the last degree. *Je me suis fait engueuler dans les grandes largeurs*! I got a rare talking to!
- lascar**, *sb.m.* Fellow (esp. a knowing one). *Un rude lascar*, a tough customer.
- latte**, *sb.f.* Shoe, clod-crusher.
- lavasse**, *sb.f.* Flat beverage, slops, bilge, cat-lap, belly-wash, dish-water.
- lavement**, *sb.m.* Boring thing or person. (*Lit.* enema.)
- laver**, *vb.tr.* 1. To sell off (usually from want of money).
2. *Laver la tête à quelqu'un*, to haul someone over the coals. (*Cp.* donner un savon.)
- lavette**, *sb.f.* 1. Tongue. (*Cp.* U.S.: rag, in 'to chew the rag' = to gossip.)
2. A weak fellow, a dud, a wash-out.
- Lazaro**, *proper name.* 1. Prison of St-Lazare, to which prostitutes are sent.
2. Military prison, clink.
- lèche**, *sb.f.* *Faire de la lèche*, to flatter, to cringe. (*Cp.* to suck up to.)



lèche-cul, *sb.m.* Vile flatterer, toady, lickspittle, bum-sucker.

légitime, *sb.f.* Wife. *Ma légitime*, the missus.

légume, *sb.f.* Important personage. *Une grosse légume*, a big pot, big bug, bigwig.

Léon, *proper name.* *Vas-y Léon!* phrase of encouragement: go it, old chap! *U.S.:* go to it! (One sometimes adds *et ne fais pas tant de manières*, and don't make such a fuss about it.)

lerche, *adv.* Much. *Y a pas lерche*, there is not much.

lessiver, *vb.tr.* 1. To sell off. (*Cp.* LAVER 1.)

2. *Lessiver la tête à quelqu'un*, to scold someone. (*Cp.* LAVER 2.)

lettre, *sb.f.* *Passer comme une lettre à la poste*, to be believed, accepted, easily. *Tu crois que ça prendra?*—*Ça passera comme une lettre à la poste*, do you think that'll catch on?—He (they, etc.) will swallow it whole.

levage, *sb.m.* Act of LEVER.

lever, *vb.tr.* *Lever une femme* = *faire une femme*, *q.v.* under FAIRE 9.

libre, *adj.* Obscene. (In second-hand booksellers' catalogues, *gravures libres* does not usually refer to light, but to smutty illustrations.)

lichade, *sb.f.* Booze.

licher, *vb.tr.* and *intr.* To drink, tipple. *Licher un petit verre*, to take a wee drappy.

licheur, *euse*, *sb.m.f.* Tippler. *C'est un licheur*, he's fond of a drop.

lignard, *sb.m.* Infantryman, footslogger.

limace, *sb.f.* Shirt, flesh-bag.

limande, *sb.f.* Slap in the face, a warmer.

limoger, *vb.tr.* To 'Stellenbosch.' (During the war inefficient generals were temporarily sent to Limoges.)

limonade, *sb.f.* 1. Water. *Piquer une tête dans la limonade*, to take a header into the river.

2. Misery. *Il est dans la limonade*, he is on the rocks.

3. *La limonade.* (a) The trade of coffee-house keeper. *Être dans la limonade*, to keep a bar or coffee-house.

(b) The various drinks kept in a coffee-house (not necessarily lemonade).

linge, *sb.m.* *Avoir du linge*, to be well-off.

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lingue, *sb.m.* Knife, chive, chiv. *Placer un lingue à quelqu'un*, to knife somebody.

linguer, *vb.tr.* To stab.

liquette, *sb.f.* Shirt, chemise, shift.

Lisette, *proper name.* *Pas de ça Lisette!* expresses denial, refusal: don't try it on me! come off it! none of that, George!

litron, *sb.m.* Litre (of wine).

livre, *sb.f.* Hundred francs.

location, *sb.f.* Corruption of *allocation*, allowance. (*Cp.* 'low-ance.)

lolo, *sb.m.* 1. (Child's word = *lait*.) Milk.

2. Any good thing. *C'est du lolo*, it's jam.

losange, *sb.m.* *Mener la vie en losange*, said of a married couple who each have a lover.

lotos, *sb.m.pl.* Eyes. *Ribouler des lotos*, to stare with astonishment. (*Lit.* to roll up one's eyes.)

loub, *sb.m.f.* *Faire la loub*, to be on the spree. (*Cp.* NOUBA.)

louchébem, *sb.m.* Butcher (backslang formation).

loucher, *vb.intr.* *Loucher sur*, to glance (esp. sideways), with expression of desire, to leer at. (*Cp.* to have a squint.)

louf, *adj.* Loony, cracked, a little touched, eccentric, erratic.

loufe, *sb.f.* Noiseless fart.

loufer, *vb.intr.* To break wind silently.

loufoque, *adj.* = LOUF.

loufoquerie, *sb.f.* Eccentricity.

louftingue, *adj.* = LOUF.

loulou, *-oute*, *sb.m.f.* Terms of endearment: darling, ducky, honey.

loup, *sb.m.* 1. Term of endearment. *Mon gros, petit, loup*, my darling, my duck.

2. *Elle a vu le loup*, she's had it. (*Cp.* she's seen the elephant.)

loupé, *e*, *adj.* = LOUF.

louper, *vb.tr.* 1. To miss. *J'ai laissé louter mon tour*, I let my turn go by. *J'ai loupé deux mots*, I have missed two words.

2. To do badly. *Louper un travail*, to bungle a job.

loupot, *sb.m.* Child, brat.



lourde, *sb.f.* Door. *Boucle la lourde*, shut the door.

loustic, *sb.m.* Facetious fellow, wag.

loute, *sb.f.* = LOULOUTE.

lundi, *sb.m.* *Faire le lundi*, not to work on Mondays, to take Monday off.

lune, *sb.f.* 1. Posterior.

2. *Con comme la lune*, see CON.

3. *Avoir vu la lune*, to have lost one's maidenhead. *Elle a vu la lune*, she's had it. (*Cp. elle a vu le loup.*)

luné, *e*, *adj.* *Bien, mal, luné*, in a good, bad, humour.

lurette, *sb.f.* *Il y a belle lurette*, it's a long time ago.

lustucru, *sb.m.* Simpleton, silly Billy.

M

maboul, *e*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Crazy, mad, barmy, daft. (*Cp. DINGO.*)

maboulisme, *sb.m.* Craziness.

mac, *sb.m.* = MAQUEREAU.

macache, *interj.* Expresses negation, denial; napoo, nix.

1. *A partir de maintenant macache les permissions*, from now on no more leaves. *Macache argent*, no money.

2. *Macache bézef*, not much. *Macache bono*, not good, not well.

3. *Me lever à trois heures du matin, macache!* get up at three in the morning, never in my life! not blooming likely! I'm not having any!

4. *J'ai essayé, mais macache!* I tried to, but nothing doing.

macaron, *sb.m.* The steering wheel of a motor-car. *Prendre le macaron*, to drive.

macaroni, *sb.m.* 1. *Cherrer dans le macaroni*, see CHERRER.

2. Italian, Dago. (*Cp. ROSBIF*, Englishman; 'froggy,' Frenchman; *CHOUROUTEMANE*, German.)

macavoué, *sb.m.* (A dialectal form of *matou*, tom-cat.) German heavy shell. (Corresponding with the English 'coal-box' and German 'Katz'.)

macchab, macchabé, macchabée, sb.m. Dead man, corpse, a dead 'un, a stiff.

machin, sb.m. 1. So-and-So, what's his name. (*Cp.* CHOSE.)

2. Anything the name of which is unknown or forgotten.
Un machin pour ouvrir les boîtes, a gadget to open boxes. (*Cp.* TRUC 4, FOURBI 3.)

machinchouette, sb.m. = MACHIN.

machine, sb.f. 1. = MACHIN.

2. *Machine à découdre, machine à secouer les paletots*, machine-gun. (*Cp.* German *Kaffeemühle.*)

macsée, sb.f. = MAQUERELLE.

magner, se, vb.pr. To make haste. *Allons, magne-toi!* (occasionally, *magne-toi le train*, i.e. the buttocks) now then, look sharp! get a move on!

magnes, sb.f.pl. Manners. *Faire des magnes*, to be affected, formal, snobbish, to make a fuss. *Pas tant de magnes!* come off it!

magot, sb.m. Money (esp. hoarded up). *Avoir le magot*, to be rich, to have the dibs, (usually of a girl, to have a good dowry). (*Cp.* *avoir le sac.*)

main, sb.f. *Passer la main*, to discontinue. *J'en ai assez, je passe la main*, I'm fed up, I'm chucking it.

maintenir, se, vb.pr. *Comment ça va?*—*Ça se maintient*, how goes it?—So-so, middling.

mairie, sb.f. Pop. pron. of *mairie*, town-hall.

maison, sb.f. 1. (= *maison close*) Brothel. *Une fille de maison*, a prostitute attached to a house.

2. *Tarte, pâté, etc., maison*, home-made tart, pie, etc. (Expression used in bills of fare. Elliptical for *de la maison.*)

malabar, adj. Good, fine of its kind, first-rate, topping, A1, etc.

malade, adj. 1. Mad. *Non, mais tu n'es pas malade?* you are not crazy, are you?

2. *Avoir une envie malade*, to desire very badly. *J'en avais une envie malade*, I was just dying for it.

malapatte, sb.m.f. and adj. Awkward, clumsy; a cripple. (A fanciful formation on the pattern of *maladroit.*)

mal-blanchi, sb.m. Coloured man, darkey.

malheureux, adj. *C'est malheureux de voir ça! si c'est pas malheureux!* isn't it a shame? doesn't it make you sick?

malin, *adj.* 1. Clever, cute (without any suggestion of malice. In this colloquial use the feminine of the word is *maline* instead of *maligne*.) *C'est un petit malin*, he's a cute little fellow. *C'est un malin*, he's up to snuff, he knows what's what.

2. *Faire son (le) malin*, to brag, swagger. *Il a essayé de faire son malin, mais je lui ai rivé son clou*, he tried to come the heavy, but I put him in his place. *Il fait le malin parce qu'il a une moto*, he's showing off because he's got a motor-bike.

3. Difficult. *Ça n'est pas malin*, it is not very difficult.

malle, *sb.f.* 1. *Fermer sa malle*, to shut up.

2. *Boucler sa malle*, to die, peg out, etc. (*Cp.* ARME.)

3. Military prison.

name. Pop. pron. of *madame*.

mamours, *sb.m.* *Faire des mamours à quelqu'un*. (a) To caress, cuddle, someone.

(b) To flatter, blandish, coax, cajole, someone.

manche. 1. *sb.m.* (a) *Tomber sur le manche*, to meet with an unexpected obstacle. *S'il veut se payer ma tête il tombera sur le manche*, if he wants to pull my leg, he'll find himself in the wrong shop. (*Cp.* *tomber sur un bec de gaz*.)

(b) *Être du côté du manche*, to side with the party in power.

2. *sb.f.* (a) *C'est une autre paire de manches*, that's another pair of shoes.

(b) *Avoir les jambes en manches de veste*, to be bow-legged.

(c) *La manche*, the (corporation of) beggars.

(d) *Faire la manche*, to beg for alms.

manche-à-balai, *sb.m.* 1. Tall thin fellow, long-shanks.

2. Control lever, joy-stick (of aeroplane).

mandoline, *sb.f.* Circular bed-pan.

manger, *vb.tr.* 1. *Manger le morceau*, to turn informer.

2. *Manger de la vache enragée*, to be in straitened circumstances, to have a bad time, to go through the mill.

3. *Manger du curé*, to be a determined anti-clerical.

manier, *se*, *vb.pr.* = SE MAGNER.

manigance, *sb.f.* Mean, underhand, trick, jobbery. *Il y a eu toutes sortes de manigances dans cette affaire-là*, there were all sorts of intrigues (little games) in that business.

manigancer, *vb.tr.* To scheme, intrigue. *Je me demande qu'est-*

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ce qu'il peut manigancer maintenant, I wonder what little game he's up to now.

manitou, *sb.m.* Person in authority, influential personage, big-wig, tin hat. *C'est son père qui est le grand manitou dans cette affaire-là*, his father is bossing that show.

mannezingue, *sb.m.* Keeper of a public-house.

manoché, *sb.f.* 1. Game of *manille* (cards). *Est-ce qu'on fait une manoché?* shall we have a game of *manille*?

2. The ten of every suit in the game of *manille*.

manque, *sb.f.* *A la manque*, bad of its kind, inefficient, good for nothing. *Un socialiste à la manque*, a socialist of sorts.

manquer, *vb.intr.* *Il ne manquerait plus que ça!* that would be the last straw!

maousse, *adj.* Excellent of its kind, topping, tip-top, pukka. *Un gueuleton maousse*, a slap-up dinner. (Sometimes *maousse pépère*, *maousse poil-poil*, same meaning.)

maquereau, *sb.m.* Pimp.

maquerelle, *sb.f.* Procureess, bawd.

maquesée, *sb.f.* = MAQUERELLE.

maquiller. 1. *vb.tr.* To do up, fake up. *Maquiller un tableau, un cheval*, to fake up a picture, a horse. *Maquiller les brèmes*, see BRÊME.

2. *vb.intr.* To feign, pretend, sham. *Il a maquillé à la visite*, he malingered at the sick inspection.

marabout, *sb.m.* Priest (of any religion).

marant, e, *adj.* Amusing, comical, killing, etc. *Il est marant, ce type-là*, that bloke is a scream, the very limit. (Cp. BIDONNANT.)

marbre, *sb.m.* 1. *Pincer le marbre*, to exaggerate, swagger, come it strong.

2. (a) Imposing stone (printing). *Avoir du marbre*, to be short of printed matter (newspaper, etc.).

(b) Printed matter in reserve.

marchand de soupe, *sb.m.* Head-master of boarding-school or college.

marchandise, *sb.f.* Euphemism for excrement. (Chiefly in the expression *marcher, mettre le pied, dans la marchandise*.)

marcher, *vb.intr.* 1. To accept, to do. *Je ne marche pas*, I'm not



having any, I've seen that trick before. *Je marche!* agreed! I'm on!

2. *Faire marcher*, to deceive, to fool. *Vous ne voyez donc pas qu'on vous fait marcher?* don't you see they are pulling your leg?

3. (Of a woman) To be willing to bestow her favours.

marcheur, *sb.m.* *Vieux marcheur*, old rake, gay old dog, old rip. (The expression seems to have been used for the first time by H. Lavedan in his *Nouveau Jeu* (1892).)

marchis, *sb.m.* (= *maréchal des logis*) Sergeant (cavalry).

mare, *adv.* *En avoir mare*, to have enough of it, to be fed up with it. *En v'là mare!* enough of it! enough said! *J'fais mon business et c'est mare!* I do my job and nothing more!

marer, *se, vb.pr.* To amuse oneself, to have a good time, a good laugh.

margis, *sb.f.* = MARCHIS.

Margot, *proper name.* Dim. of *Marguerite*.

margoulette, *sb.f.* Mouth, head, face. *Il se fera casser la margoulette*, they'll spoil his beauty for him.

margoulin, *sb.m.* Inefficient workman, slouch.

Marguerite, *proper name.* Machine-gun.

Marianne, *proper name.* The French Republic.

marida. 1. *sb.m.* Marriage.

2. *adj.* (a) Married.

(b) Living with a fancy man.

marie-mange-mon-prêt, *sb.f.* Prostitute living on soldiers, barrack-hack. (*Lit.* a pay eater.)

marie-salope, *sb.f.* Prostitute of low order, trollop.

mariolle, *adj.* Knowing, cute, shrewd. *Faire le mariolle*, to try to show off, to talk big. *Il ne faisait pas le mariolle*, he was singing small.

marle, *sb.m.* 1. = MARLOU.

2. *Faire le marle* = *faire le malin*. See MALIN 3.

marlou, **marloupatte**, **marloupin**, *sb.m.* Pimp.

marmaille, *sb.f.* Brats.

marmelade, *sb.f.* 1. *Avoir la figure en marmelade*, to have one's face smashed into pulp, beaten to a jelly. *Ma voiture était en marmelade*, my car was smashed up, knocked into smithereens, smashed to matchwood.

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2. *Être dans la marmelade*, to be stony broke, in a hole, in the soup.

marmitage, *sb.m.* Bombardment with heavy shells.

marmite, *sb.f.* 1. Prostitute who keeps a fancy man.

2. Bomb, heavy shell.

marmiter, *vb.tr.* To bombard with heavy shells.

marmot, *sb.m.* Brat. *Croquer le marmot*, to be kept waiting, to kick, to cool, one's heels.

marner, *vb.intr.* To work, toil.

marotte, *sb.f.* Fad, crotchet, maggot. *C'est sa marotte*, it's the blind side of him.

marque-mal, *sb.m.* Person of dubious appearance.

marquer, *vb.intr.* *Marquer mal*, to have a bad, dubious appearance.

marre, *adv.* = MARE.

marron. 1. *sb.m.* Blow, punch. *Coller un marron sur la gueule de quelqu'un*, to land somebody one on the mug. *Fous-lui un marron!* fetch him one!

2. *adj.* *Être marron*, to be taken in, done brown.

marronnant, e, *adj.* Bothersome.

marronner, *vb.intr.* To be dissatisfied, vexed, to grumble, to grouse.

marsouin, *sb.m.* Colonial infantryman.

marteau, *adj.* Crazy, daft, etc. (*Cp.* DINGO.)

masser, *vb.intr.* To work hard, toil, sweat.

mastic, *sb.m.* 1. Disorder, confusion, mess.

2. Work. *S'endormir sur le mastic*, to loiter, ca'canny. *T'en dors pas sur le mastic!* go on, you slacker, put a jerk in it!

mastoc, *adj.* Heavy, clumsy-looking.

mastroquet, *sb.m.* Keeper of a pub.

m'as-tu-vu, *sb.m.* (Contemptuous) Actor. (*Lit.* did you see me? Allusion to the complacent air of certain members of the profession.)

matérielle, *sb.f.* *Faire, assurer, sa matérielle*, to secure enough at the gaming tables to live on.

maternelle, *sb.f.* 1. Mother, mater.

2. Infant school.



Mathieu Salé, *sb.m.* (Jocular for *Mathusalem*.) *Être vieux comme Mathieu Salé*, to be as old as Methusalem.

mathurin, *sb.m.* Sailor, Jack Tar.

mâtin, *e.* 1. *sb.m.f.* Little rascal, little minx (usually of a child).
2. *interj.* Expresses astonishment. *Mâtin, vous y allez fort!* by Jove, you're coming it a bit strong!

matricule, *sb.m.* *Ça va barder pour ton matricule*, it's going to be dangerous for you. (*Lit.* for your number. *Cp.* the expression 'got your number on,' a bullet, shell, intended for you.)

matriculer, *vb.tr.* To steal, pinch, nab.

Maub, *proper name.* *La place Maub*, the Place Maubert (in Paris).

mauvaise, *adj.* *L'avoir (la trouver) mauvaise*, not to like it at all, to be sick of it. *J'ai fait le pied de grue pendant deux heures; je l'ai trouvée mauvaise!* I cooled my heels for two hours; it was no joke, I was pretty wild.

mauviette, *sb.f.* *Avoir du sang de mauviette*, to be a milksop. (*Lit.* to have skylark's blood in one's veins.)

maxée, *sb.f.* = MAQUERELLE.

mazagran, *sb.m.* Coffee (served in a glass).

mec, *sb.m.* 1. Pimp.

2. Man, fellow (esp. contemptuous), bloke, cove. *Ils nous barbent, ces mecs-là!* these blighters get on our nerves.

mécaniser, *vb.tr.* To tease, worry.

mécano, *sb.m.* Workman who drives or repairs engines. (Abbr. of *mécanicien*.)

méchant, *e, adj.* *Pas méchant*, of poor grade or indifferent (only in the negative). *Qu'est-ce que tu penses de ce roman?—C'est pas méchant*, what do you think of this novel?—It's rather a tame thing, not up to much.

mèche, *sb.f.* 1. *Vendre la mèche*, to give away one's accomplices, to tell tales, to split.

2. *Y avoir mèche, n'y avoir pas mèche*, to be possible, impossible. *Pas mèche*, nothing doing.

3. *Être de mèche avec quelqu'un*, to be an accomplice of somebody, to go halves with somebody.

4. *Sentir la mèche*, to smell a rat.

mecton, *sb.m.* = MEC.

meg, *sb.m.* = MEC.

mégot, *sb.m.* Cigarette end, cigar end, fag. *Ramasseur de mégots*, man who picks up cigar and cigarette ends to smoke or sell the tobacco.

mégotier, *sb.m.* = *Ramasseur de mégots*, *q.v.* under MÉGOT.

mélasse, *sb.f.* *Être dans la mélasse*, to be in trouble, in straitened circumstances, in a fix, a mess.

mélécasse, *sb.m.* Mixture of vermouth and cassis (black-currant liqueur).

méli-mélo, *sb.m.* Extreme confusion, jumble.

mélo, *sb.m.* (Abbr. of *mélodrame*) Blood-and-thunder drama.

melon, *sb.m.* 1. Silly fellow, flat.

2. Round-crowned hard felt hat, billycock, bowler.

membrer, *vb.intr.* To toil.

mémère, *sb.f.* Grandmother, granny.

mendigot, *sb.m.* (= *mendiant*) Beggar.

ménesse, *sb.f.* Woman.

Ménilmuche, *proper name.* (= *Ménilmontant*) District of Paris.

méninges, *sb.f.* *S'abîmer les méninges*, to rack one's brains.

mer, *sb.f.* *Ça n'est pas la mer à boire!* it's easy enough!

mercante, *sb.f.* *La mercante*, the whole gang of MERCANTIS.

mercanti, *sb.m.* Unscrupulous tradesman, profiteer.

merde. 1. *sb.f.* (a) Excrement, shit.

(b) Any worthless thing.

(c) *C'est-il oui ou merde?* is it yes or no?

(d) *Avoir un œil qui dit merde à l'autre*, to have a squint.

2. *interj.* Expresses anger, disappointment, emphatic refusal, admiration, etc.

merdeux. 1. *adj.* (a) Full of shit.

(b) Dirty, unpleasant, nasty of its kind.

(c) *Bâton merdeux*, any person whose acquaintance is likely to bring one trouble and worry, a plague, a nasty fellow.

2. *sb.m.* Inexperienced young fellow, a green hand. (*Cp.*

MORVEUX.)

mère, *sb.f.* 1. *Mère une telle, la mère une telle*, old mother so-and-so. *Dites donc, la petite mère!* I say, Missis!

2. *Va dire à ta mère qu'elle te finisse* (or *recommence*), go and ask your mother to finish you (to bear you over again). (A stock phrase tantamount to calling a man an abortion.)



mérinos, *sb.m.* *Laisser pisser le mérinos*, to bide one's time, not to fret.

merlan, *sb.m.* 1. *Faire des yeux de merlan frit*, (*lit.* to make eyes like a fried whiting, that is to turn them up and roll them so that only the whites are seen) to look like a dying duck in a thunderstorm.

2. Hairdresser.

merlifique, *sb.m.* Mountebank, showman.

mésigue, *pron.* Myself, this child. (*Cp.* SÉZIGUE.)

messe, *sb.f.* 1. *Dire des messes basses, une messe basse*, to speak in a low voice. *Je n'aime pas les messes basses*, stock phrase said to people who whisper to each other in order not to be heard.

2. *Je ne répète pas la messe pour les sourds*, I don't like to say things over again. (Stock phrase said to people who ask you to repeat the same thing several times.)

messieurs-dames, elliptical expression. Gentlemen and ladies. Popular formula of greeting on arriving or departing. *Bonjour, bonsoir*, etc., may be added, but is often dispensed with. It is to be observed that the formula is used even if there happens to be only one person present.

métingue, *sb.m.* Popular pronunciation of *meeting*. (Political acceptance only.)

métro, *sb.m.* Abbr. of *Métropolitain*, the Paris underground railway.

mettre. 1. *vb.tr.* (Various expressions.) (a) *Le mettre à quelqu'un*, to deceive somebody, to take somebody in.

(b) *En mettre*, to make efforts, to wire into it. *Mets-y-en!* go it for all you are worth! put some vim into it!

(c) *Les mettre*, to be off, to hop it, to do a guy. (*Lit.* *mettre les voiles*, to set the sails.)

2. *vb.pr.* *Se mettre bien*, to do oneself proud. (The correct meaning is 'to dress well.')

meuble, *sb.m.* *Être dans ses meubles*, to have one's own furniture (as opposed to living in lodgings). *Mettre dans ses meubles*, to provide (usually a mistress) with everything necessary in a household.

mézique, *pron.* = MÉSIQUE.

miché, michet, *sb.m.* Man who pays a prostitute (*esp.* as opposed to fancy man).

Michel, *proper name*. *Ça fait la rue Michel* (sometimes curtailed to *ça fera la rue*), that's all right, O.K., for me.

micmac, *sb.m.* Complication, jumble, underhand manoeuvre, jobbery.

midi, *sb.m.* *Midi! c'est midi! midi sonné! midi moins cinq!* there is no doing it, nothing doing! *C'est macache et midi sonné!* it's absolutely impossible.

midinette, *sb.f.* Parisian work-girl (greatly in evidence at mid-day).

mie, *sb.f.* 1. *A la mie, à la mie de pain*, worthless of its kind. *Un mec à la mie de pain*, a worthless fellow, not cute or plucky, a wash-out, a dud.

2. *Mie de pain mécanique*, louse.

miette, *sb.f.* *Pas une miette*, not a bit. *Ne pas s'en faire une miette*, not to worry a bit.

mignard, *sb.m.* Young child, nipper, kid. *Il n'en pince pas pour les mignards*, he has no use for kids, brats.

mignon, onne, *adj.* Popularly used in the meaning of beautiful, interesting. (*Cp. JOLI 2.*)

milieu, *sb.m.* *Le milieu*, the criminal class: thieves, burglars, sharpers, etc. (including sometimes the detectives).

mille, *num.adj.* 1. *Pan, dans le mille!* that was a bull's eye! that went home! a good hit! well said! that's the stuff to give him! (*Lit.* the number *mille*—the highest score in some targets—was hit.)

2. *Coûter (gagner) des mille et des cents*, to cost (to earn) pots of money.

milord, *sb.m.* Wealthy man, nabob, Croesus. *Me prenez-vous pour un milord?* do you think I'm made of money?

mimi, *sb.m.* (A reduplication of the first syllable of *minet*.)

1. Pussy cat.

2. Term of endearment, darling, ducky.

mince, *interj.* Expresses wonder, incredulity: fancy! just imagine! you don't say so! just think of it! *Mince de pluie! mince de chaleur!* what a downpour! what a heat!

minouche, *sb.f.* Term of endearment, ducky.

minute, *interj.* 1. Half-a-mo!

2. You mark my words!

mioche, *sb.m.* Child, brat.

mirettes, *sb.m.* Eyes, optics, peepers.

mirobolant, *e, adj.* Wonderful, astounding, scrumptious, stunning.

miroir, *sb.m.* *Miroir à putains*, man of loose life. (*Lit.* one whose face is like a looking-glass for strumpets.)

mironton, *sb.m.* 1. Pop. form of *miroton*, beef stewed with onions.
 2. Fellow (disparaging). *Qu'est-ce qu'il nous veut ce mironton-là?* what's he got to do with us, that blighter?

misères, *sb.f.pl.* *Faire des misères à quelqu'un.* (a) To tease somebody. *Ne fais pas de misères à ce pauvre chien*, don't you torment that poor dog.

(b) To grieve, afflict. *Il a fait beaucoup de misères à ses parents*, he gave his parents a lot of trouble, he was a dreadful worry to his parents.

mistoufle, *sb.f.* 1. Affront, insult, vexation. *Faire des mistoufles à quelqu'un*, to behave in an unfriendly manner towards somebody, to play someone a dirty trick.

2. *Être dans la mistoufle*, to be in straitened circumstances, in the soup, in Queer Street.

mitaine, *sb.f.* *Ne pas prendre de mitaines pour dire quelque chose*, to say things bluntly, not to mince matters. (*Lit.* not to put on gloves.)

miteux, *euse, adj.* Poor, shabby-looking, paltry-looking, lousy.

miton-mitaine, *adj.* Neither good nor bad. *Un remède miton-mitaine*, an indifferent drug.

moblot, *sb.m.* Soldier belonging to the *Garde Mobile* in 1870.

mochard, *e, adj.* = **MOCHE**.

moche, *adj.* Ugly, bad, worthless of its kind, of poor description, shoddy, rotten, lousy. *C'est ça ton galure? eh bien, il est rien moche!* that's your tile? well, a jolly dud it is!

mœurs, *sb.m.pl.* *Les mœurs* (pron. *meurs*), the police whose duty it is to enforce the regulations regarding prostitution. (Abbr. of *police des mœurs*.)

moineau, *sb.m.* Fellow (contemptuous). *Un drôle de moineau, un sale moineau*, a queer bird, a bad egg.

moins, *adv.* *Les moins-de-trente* (or *quarante*; etc.) *ans*, the people

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less than thirty years of age. The expression is regarded as a compound word: *un moins-de-trente-ans*.

moisir, *vb.intr.* *Je ne vais pas moisir ici*, I am not going to stop here long, to grow mildewed in this place.

molard, *sb.m.* Gob.

mollasson, *sb.m.* Flabby fellow, milksop.

mollusque, *sb.m.* Sluggish fellow, wash-out.

môme, *sb.m.f.* 1. Child, kid.

2. *Une belle môme*, a pretty-looking bit of goods, a handsome girl. *Il est beau môme*, he is a fine-looking fellow.

momignard, *sb.m.* = MÔME 1.

mominette, *sb.f.* Drink of absinthe (served in a small glass).

monaco, *sb.m.* Money. *Avoir des monacos*, to have plenty of cash, to be flush. (*Cp.* AUBER.)

monde, *sb.m.* 1. People. *Qu'est-ce que dira* (also *diront*) *le monde?* what will Mrs Grundy say?

2. *Ça c'est un monde!* that's too bad! that's a bit thick! it beats everything!

3. *Il y a du monde au balcon*, see BALCON.

monnaie, *sb.f.* 1. *Rendre à quelqu'un la monnaie de sa pièce*, to make a sharp retort, to pay someone back in his own coin. (*Cp.* take your change out of that.)

2. *Payer en monnaie de singe*. (a) To let (someone) whistle for his money. (b) To make game of (someone).

monôme, *sb.m.* Procession of students walking in single file through the street to cheer or boo some official personage.

monté, e, *adj.* *Être bien monté*, (ironical) to be in a pretty fix.

monte-en-l'air, *sb.m.* Burglar (breaking in through garrets), cat burglar.

monter, *vb.tr.* 1. *Monter un bateau*, see BATEAU 1.

2. *Faire monter à l'échelle*, see ÉCHELLE.

3. *Monter le bourrichon*, see BOURRICHON.

4. *Monter la tête à quelqu'un*, to excite, work upon, someone. *On lui a monté la tête*, they have poisoned his mind.

5. *Monter le coup*, see COUP 16.

Montparno, *proper name*. Montparnasse, district in Paris.

Mont Valo, *proper name*. The Mont Valérien, a hill near Paris.

morbac, *sb.m.* (= MORPION) Crab-louse.



morceau, *sb.m.* *Manger le morceau*, to turn informer, to give one's accomplices away, to split, to blow the gaff, to nark. (*Cp. casser le morceau, se mettre à table.*)

mordre, *vb.tr.* 1. To look at, pay attention to, spot. *Mords-moi ça!* just have a look at that! cast your eye on it!

2. *Ça ne mord pas*, it's no use trying it, I'm not to be caught, not having any.

3. *C'est à se les mordre*, it's simply killing, it's a scream.

4. To exaggerate. (*Cp. ABÎMER.*)

5. *A la mords-moi-le-doigt*, bad, ugly, worthless, inefficient of its kind. (*Cp. MIE 1.*)

morlingue, *sb.m.* Purse.

mornifle, *sb.f.* Slap in the face, clout, biff. *Flanquer une mornifle à quelqu'un*, to give someone a warmer.

morpion, *sb.m.* 1. Crab-louse.

2. Child (disparaging).

mort, *sb.m.* (Cards) *Faire le mort*, to play dummy.

morue, *sb.f.* Trollolop, trull.

morveux, *sb.m.* 1. Child, brat (disparaging).

2. Inexperienced young fellow.

moscouteaire, *adj.* From Moscow. (With reference to Bolshevik institutions. The traditional adjective is *moscovite*.)

motus, *interj.* Mum's the word.

mou, *sb.m.* Human flesh, body. *Rentrer dans le mou à quelqu'un*, to attack someone. *Ma baïonnette lui rentra dans le mou*, I got him in the guts.

mouchard, *sb.m.* Informer, police-spy, spy, nark.

moucharder, *vb.tr.* To spy, to sneak. *Il n'a mouchardé personne*, he did not split on anyone.

mouche, *sb.f.* 1. Bullet.

2. = MOUCHARD.

moucher, *vb.tr.* 1. To give a good scolding to. *Il a besoin de se faire moucher*, he wants to be told off.

2. To make a crushing retort to, to crush. *Il a voulu discuter, mais il s'est fait moucher*, he wanted to have an argument, but he got sat upon.

3. To beat. *Il s'est fait moucher*, he's got a licking.

4. *Ne pas se moucher du pied*, to do things on a great scale, to cut it fat, to cut a dash. *Il a acheté une auto.—Eh bien, il ne se*

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mouche pas du pied! he's bought a motor-car.—Well, he grudges himself nothing, does himself well, does things in style. (The renderings given in all dictionaries—he is no fool, he's up to snuff, he knows what he is about, and the like—correspond to an obsolete meaning of this expression.)

mouise, *sb.f.* Distress, poverty. *Être dans la mouise*, to be hard up, in Queer Street.

moujingue, *sb.f.* = MOUKÈRE.

moukère, *sb.f.* Woman, prostitute.

moule. 1. *sb.f.* Simpleton, worthless fellow, a dud. *Quelle vieille moule!* what an old sausage!

2. *sb.m.* *Moule à gaufres*, noodle, silly ass. (*Lit.* waffle-iron.)

moulin, *sb.m.* Engine of a motor-car.

moulin à café, *sb.m.* Machine-gun. (*Cp.* German *Kaffeemühle*, *Steinklopfer*, *Drehorgel*, *Fleischhack Maschine*.)

moumoute, *sb.f.* Term of endearment, ducky.

mourant, *e*, *adj.* Very comical, killing. (*Cp.* BIDONNANT.)

mourir, *vb.intr.* *Tu t'en ferais mourir!* (ironical), that's too good for you, don't you wish you may get it! *Tu voudrais travailler quatre heures par jour! bien mon vieux, tu t'en ferais mourir!* you'd like to work four hours a day! well, old chap, you're not difficult to please!

mousaille, *sb.f.* Dirt.

mousse, *sb.f.* 1. *Se faire de la mousse*, to fret oneself. *Ne te fais pas de mousse*, don't you worry.

2. *N'avoir plus de mousse sur le caillou*, see CAILLOU.

mousser, *vb.intr.* 1. *Faire mousser*, to praise exaggeratedly. *Faire mousser sa marchandise*, to puff, U.S.: boost, one's goods. *Se faire mousser*, to talk with complacency of oneself.

2. To be angry, to fume, to be ratty, shirty, waxy.

moutard, *sb.m.* Child, brat, kid, urchin.

moutarde, *sb.f.* *La moutarde lui monte au nez*, he is getting riled, his monkey is up.

moutardier, *sb.m.* *Se croire le premier moutardier du pape*, to think no small beer of oneself.

moute, *adj.* Nice, sweet (of a woman).

mouton, *sb.m.* 1. Downy and dusty particles (fluff, hair and dust) which accumulate under furniture, in pockets, etc.; flue.

2. Police-spy, prisoner placed near another to pump information out of him.

3. *Laisser pisser le mouton* = *laisser pisser les mérinos*.

mouvement, *sb.m.* *Être dans le mouvement*, to be in the swim, to be up to date.

moyenner, *vb.intr.* To manage, contrive, in the expression: *y a pas moyen de moyenner*, it's no good trying, it can't be done, it's no use.

muffe, *sb.m.* = MUFLE.

muffée, *sb.f.* *Prendre une muffée*, to get drunk, to go on the bust, to get sprung.

mufle, *sb.m.* 1. Face, mug. (Disparaging.)

2. Ill-bred person, rotter, dirty dog, skunk.

muflerie, *sb.f.* *Faire une muflerie à quelqu'un*, to behave meanly towards somebody, to play someone a dirty trick.

mûr, e, *adj.* Drunk, tight.

mur, *sb.m.* *Faire le mur, sauter le mur*, (of a soldier) to jump over the wall to get out of the barracks at night.

museau, *sb.m.* Face, snout.

musette, *sb.f.* *Ne pas être dans une musette*, (of anything) to be remarkable, important, etc. *J'ai reçu une engueulade qui n'était pas dans une musette*, I got a rare talking to.

musette, *sb.m.* (= *bal-musette*) Formerly a popular dancing-hall where people danced to the sound of bagpipes; now a disreputable ball-room in the suburbs of Paris, haunted by prostitutes and their fancy men.

musique, *sb.f.* 1. *Faire de la musique*, to protest vehemently, to kick up a dust. (Cp. BACCHANAL.)

2. *En avant la musique!* jocular signal to start doing anything: let's go on! away we go! U.S.: let's go!

N

N.d.D. Abbr. of NOM DE DIEU.

na, *interj.* Chiefly used in childish or affected childlike speech to intensify asseveration or denial. *J'en veux pas, na!* I don't want any, so there! *Si, j'en veux, na!* yes, I want some, I do!



nabot, *sb.m.* Dwarfish fellow, shrimp, tom-tit.

nager, *vb.intr.* 1. To flounder (in an examination, undertaking, etc.).

2. *Savoir nager*, to be resourceful, smart, dodgy, sly.

nanan, *sb.m.* (Child's word) Goodies. *C'est du nanan*, it's nice, yum-yum!

nase, *sb.m.* Nose, neb, boko, beak.

nature, *adj.* (Of meat) Without any condiment. (Of drink) Neat, or unmixed. *Un café nature*, a cup of black coffee without any brandy. (Used by waiters and restaurant keepers.)

navet, *sb.m.* 1. Silly fellow, chump, chuckle-head.

2. *Avoir du sang de navet*, to be silly and slack, to have no spirit.

3. *Des navets!* formula of emphatic refusal. *Rester dans cette boîte-là? des navets!* stay in that hole? not jolly likely; nothing doing.

4. (Art) *Navets*, bad paintings, daubs.

nêfle, *sb.f.* *Des nêfles!* emphatic refusal: no fear!

négre, *sb.m.* Hack-writer, 'ghost' (of literary man), 'devil' (of barrister).

négresse, *sb.f.* Bottle of red wine. *Étouffer une négresse*, to drink a bottle of red wine.

néné, *sb.m.* Woman's breast, bub.

Nénesse, *proper name.* Pop. dim. of *Ernest*.

nettoyer, *vb.tr.* 1. To rob, clean out. *Se faire nettoyer (au jeu)*, to be stripped of one's money (in gambling).

2. (Of a disease) To kill, wipe out. *Il a attrapé la grippe, ça l'a nettoyé en deux jours*, he caught the 'flu, it polished him off in two days.

neveu, *sb.m.* *Un peu mon neveu!* of course! I should think so! I believe you, my boy!

nez, *sb.m.* 1. *Se piquer le nez*, to booze.

2. *Se manger le nez*, to quarrel, to fight.

3. *Avoir quelqu'un dans le nez*, to detest somebody. *Il m'a dans le nez*, he can't stick me, he has a down on me.

4. *Avoir le nez creux*, to be shrewd, cute, up to snuff.

5. *Avoir le nez sale*, to be drunk, tight.

6. *Tirer les vers du nez à quelqu'un*, to pump someone, to worm something out of someone.

7. *Mener par le bout du nez*, to domineer over, to lead by the nose. *Sa femme le mène par le bout du nez*, he is henpecked.

8. *Se casser le nez*, not to find anybody in when calling upon someone.

9. *Saigner du nez*, to funk, to have the wind up.

10. *Faire un drôle de nez, un sale nez, en faire un nez*, to look very disappointed, to pull a long face.

11. *Ça vous (lui, etc.) pend au nez* (often *comme un sifflet de deux sous*), you cannot escape that (anything unpleasant), you're in for it.

12. *Avoir un nez où il pleut dedans*, to have a turned-up nose, a pug nose.

13. *Avoir un verre dans le nez*, to be slightly drunk, to have a drop in the eye.

niasse, *sb.m.* = GNIASSE.

nib, *adv.* No. *Nib de galette*, no dibs. *On y voit que nib*, you can't see anything.

nicher, *vb.intr.* To reside. *Où est-ce qu'il niche?* where does he hang out?

nichon, *sb.m.* Woman's breast, bub.

nickelé, *adj.* *Avoir les pieds nickelés*, not to be willing to do something. (*Cp. ne pas marcher, avoir les pieds en dentelle.*) *Il voudrait que je lui prête mille balles, mais j'ai les pieds nickelés*, he'd like me to lend him a thousand francs, but I'm not having any.

niente. 1. *sb.m.* Worthless, inefficient fellow, dud, wash-out.

2. *pron.* Nothing.

niguedouille, *sb.m.* Noodle, flat, wash-out.

N, I, NI, fini. It is over, and that's an end of it, it's all over between us; you'll have no more.

ninas, *sb.m.* Cheap small cigar, a 'whiff.'

niôle, *adj.* and *sb.f.* = GNIÔLE.

nipper, *vb.tr.* To dress, tog up.

nippes, *sb.f.pl.* Clothes, togs.

nix, *negative particle.* No.

noce, *sb.f.* 1. *Faire la noce*, to lead a fast life, to be out on the spree; (of a woman) to be gay, to be on the loose, on the game. *Elle fait la noce avec le patron*, she's having an affair with the boss.

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2. *Je n'ai jamais été à pareille noce*, I never had such a time of it, I was never served so in my life.
 3. *Ne pas être à la noce*, to feel uneasy, to be on thorns.
- noceur, euse**, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Person who lives a fast life, profligate, gay dog.
- nœud**, *sb.m.* *Filer son nœud*. 1. To be off, to hop it.
2. To die, slip one's cable.
- noir**. 1. *sb.m.* (a) *Petit noir*, cup of black coffee taken at a bar.
(b) *Gros noir*, heavy German shell, 'coal-box,' 'Jack Johnson.'
2. *adj.* Very drunk, well sprung.
- noix**, *sb.f.* 1. Silly fellow. *Ce que tu es noix!* well, you are a silly fool, a duffer! *Vieille noix!* old crock! (also used playfully) old bean!
2. *A la noix (de coco)*, bad, worthless of its kind, silly, empty, faked. (*Cp. à la manque, à la mie de pain, à la graisse d'oie.*)
- nom de Dieu**, *interj.* Damn! blast! God Almighty! Also used adjectively in *nom-de-Dieu de cheval*, etc., blasted horse, etc.
- nom d'un chien**, *interj.* A mild form of *nom de Dieu*.
- nom d'une pipe**, *interj.* A mild form of *nom de Dieu*: by Jove! by jingo! blow!
- nom de d'la**, *interj.* A mild form of *nom de Dieu*.
- nord**, *sb.m.* *Perdre le nord*, to lose one's head. *Il ne perd pas le nord*, he keeps his wits about him.
- nouba**, *sb.f.* 1. Regimental band of the Senegalese *Tirailleurs*.
2. Piece of merriment, frolic, feasting. *Faire la nouba*, to be out on the spree.
- nouille**. 1. *sb.f.* Simpleton, noodle.
2. *adj.* *Ce qu'il est nouille!* what a chump, fathead!
- Nouvelle, la**, *proper name*. Abbr. of *La Nouvelle Calédonie*, a penal colony.
- nouvelles**, *sb.f.pl.* *Tu m'en diras (il m'en dira, etc.) des nouvelles*.
(a) Stock phrase implying commendation of anything. *Buvez-moi ce vin-là et vous m'en direz des nouvelles!* drink that wine and tell me if it's not absolutely it!
(b) Also ironically, with a menace. *Je te ficherais une de ces volées; tu m'en diras des nouvelles!* I'll give you a rare dressing down!
(c) Expresses emphatic asseveration. *Ce cheval ne gagnera*



pas la course? Eh bien, tu m'en diras des nouvelles! that horse will not win the race? Well I bet you he will!

noyauter, *vb.tr.* *Noyauter une usine, un atelier*, to create in a factory, a workshop, a communist centre of propaganda (*noyau*).

noyer, *vb.tr.* *Noyer le poisson*, (*lit.* to drown the fish) to practise (esp. parliamentary) obstruction.

noyer, se, *vb.pr.* *Se noyer dans son crachat*, to be very silly, quite unable to shift for oneself, to drown oneself in a tea-cup.

numéro, *sb.m.* 1. Fellow (esp. of a queer sort). *Quel numéro! tu parles d'un numéro!* what a queer bird! he's the limit! *C'est un numéro!* I've never seen the like of him! he's a card!

2. *Gros numéro*, brothel (from the number in large figures).

3. *Numéro deux*, no. 2, second best (hat, etc.).

numéroter, *vb.tr.* *Numéroter ses abatis*, see **ABATIS**.

O

occase, *sb.f.* (= *occasion*) 1. Opportunity.

2. Bargain, job-lot. *Acheter quelque chose d'occase*, to buy something second-hand.

occuper, s', *vb.pr.* *T'occupe pas*, don't you worry, I'll manage it, I'll get there.

œil, *sb.m.* 1. *A l'œil*, on tick, on the nod. *Avoir l'œil*, to have credit, to buy on tick.

2. *Faire de l'œil à quelqu'un*, to cast amorous glances at someone, to give someone the glad eye.

3. *Taper dans l'œil de quelqu'un*, to take somebody's fancy.

4. *S'en battre l'œil*, not to care a bit for it.

5. *Tourner de l'œil*, to faint, die, kick the bucket.

6. *Avoir l'œil américain*, see **AMÉRICAIN**.

7. *Coco-bel-œil*, nickname of a one-eyed man, and said sometimes ironically of anybody.

8. *Mon œil! et mon œil!* emphatic (or ironical) refusal, or disbelief: don't you wish you may get it! not likely! don't try to cod me! all my eye!

9. *Avoir un œil qui dit merde* (or *zut*) *à l'autre*, to have a squint.

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10. *Se rincer l'œil*, to feast one's eye (usually lustfully).
 11. *Œil de crapaud*, twenty-franc piece.
- œuf**, *sb.m.* *Œufs sur le plat*, woman's breasts (chiefly flat, like fried eggs). *Espèce d'œuf*, silly fool, donkey.
- offense**, *sb.f.* *Y a pas d'offense*, a polite formula of popular speech with different shades of meaning, according to context. (a) *Mon père est en prison.*—*Y a pas d'offense*, my father is in prison.—You're not to be blamed for it, are you?
 (b) *Excusez-moi.*—*Y a pas d'offense*, excuse me.—It's quite all right, don't mention it.
 (c) *Y a pas d'offense, mais c'est i pas vous qui auriez pris mon chapeau?* excuse my saying so, you don't mind my asking you, but haven't you taken my hat?
- officemar**, *sb.m.* = *officier*.
- offrir**, *s'*, *vb.pr.* = *SE PAYER*.
- oie**, *sb.f.* *Oie blanche*, unsophisticated girl.
- oignon**, *sb.m.* 1. Watch, turnip.
 2. *C'est pas tes oignons*, it's none of your business.
 3. *Aux petits oignons*, very carefully, in first-rate style. *Je lui arrangerai ça aux petits oignons*, I'll give him a rare talking to.
- oiseau**, *sb.m.* 1. Fellow. *Drôle d'oiseau*, queer bird.
 2. *Aux oiseaux*, fine, first-rate of its kind.
 3. *Donner des noms d'oiseau*, to abuse. *Je me suis fait donner des noms d'oiseau*, they called me names, I was slanged.
- olrède**, *adj.* Popular interpretation of 'all right.' *Ma bécane est olrède*, my bike is all right.
- ombre**, *sb.f.* *A l'ombre*, in prison. *Mettre à l'ombre*, to put in prison, in quod.
- on**, *pron.* Substituted for *nous* in pop. speech. *C'est nous qu'on est content*, we are jolly glad. *Nous, on s'en fout*, we don't care a damn.
- onze**, *adj.* *Le train onze*, Shanks' mare. *Prendre le train onze*, to go on foot, to foot it, hike it, hoof it.
- or**, *sb.m.* *En or*. 1. Used as an intensive after some terms of endearment. *Ma poupoule en or*, ducky dear.
 2. *Public en or*, in theatre slang, an audience easily pleased with the actors and ready to express their approval.
- orange**, *sb.f.* *Avoir des oranges à l'étalage, sur son étagère*, (of a

- woman) to have a full breast, apple-dumpling's. (*Lit.* to have oranges in the shop-window.) (*Cp.* AVANT-SCÈNES.)
- os**, *sb.m.* *Courir (cavaler) sur l'os (à quelqu'un)*, to bore (someone). *Il me court sur l'os*, he gets on my nerves.
- oseille**, *sb.f.* 1. *La faire à l'oseille à quelqu'un*, to try to deceive somebody. *Faudrait voir à ne pas nous la faire à l'oseille*, don't try to cod us, don't come here with those tricks, we twig your game.
2. Money, dibs, dough, etc. (*Cp.* AUBER.)
- osteau**, **osto**, *sb.m.* = HOSTEAU.
- ouatères**, *sb.m.pl.* Popular adaptation of water(-closet). *Aller aux ouatères, où sont les ouatères?* (*Cp.* VÉCÉ.)
- ouatte**, *interj.* *Ah, ouatte!* expresses emphatic and ironical negation. *Vous croyez qu'il m'a écrit? Ah bien, ouatte!* you think he wrote to me? Not a bit of it! Not he!
- ouiche**, *interj.* = OUATTE.
- ouïe**, *sb.f.* Ear.
- ousque**. Popular pron. of *où est-ce que*. *Ousque vous allez?* where are you going?
- ouste**, *interj.* *Allons, ouste, caletez!* get away, be off, hop it, and double quick!
- outil**, *sb.m.* Clumsy fellow, bad hand at anything.
- ouvrir**, *vb.tr.* 1. To talk, disclose one's feelings, to open up.
2. *L'ouvrir sur quelqu'un*, to criticize, U.S.: to knock, someone. *Il ne l'ouvre pas sur les copains*, he's not the man to run down his pals.
- oyayaïe**, *interj.* (Also *Oh, yayaïe!* = *Oh, là là!*) Expresses surprise, ironical denial. *Il se remarie à soixante-dix ans? Oyayaïe!* he is getting married again at seventy? Dear me! You don't say so!

P

- pacson**, *sb.m.* (= *paquet*) Package, parcel.
- paf**, *adj.* Drunk, tight, blotto.
- paffer**, **se**, *vb.pr.* To drink, booze, etc.
- pagaïe**, **pagaille**, *sb.f.* Disorder, confusion. *En pagaïe*, at sixes and sevens. *C'est la pagaille*, it's a frightful mess.

A DICTIONARY OF FRENCH SLANG

page, *sb.f.* *Être à la page*, to be in the know, up to date. *Ne pas être à la page.* (a) Not to be aware of the subject of the conversation, to be quite out of it, off it. (Usually said of a person who passes a remark bearing no relevancy to the topic discussed.)

(b) Not to be conversant with the topics of the day.

(c) Not to be adapted to the ways of one's time. *Il n'est pas à la page*, he's an old crock.

pageot, *sb.m.* Bed.

pagnot, *sb.m.* Bed.

pagnoter, *vb.intr.* and *pr.* To go to bed.

paillasse, *sb.f.* 1. Prostitute of low order, barber's chair. (*Cp.* hay-bag = woman.)

2. Belly. *Crever la paillasse à quelqu'un*, to go for someone, to murder someone.

paillasson, *sb.f.* = PAILLASSE.

paille, *sb.f.* 1. *C'est une paille*, that's not much (antiphrastic). *Il a gagné un million, une paille!* he won a million, a mere trifle!

2. *Hacher de la paille*, to utter harsh sounds in speaking, as the Germans are supposed to do.

3. *Faire des pailles à sa femme*, to be unfaithful to one's wife.

paillon, *sb.m.* = PAILLE 2.

pain, *sb.m.* 1. Blow. *Coller un pain sur la gueule à quelqu'un*, to land someone one on the mug.

2. *Perdre le goût du pain*, to die, to lose the number of one's mess.

3. *Faire passer le goût du pain à quelqu'un*, to kill, murder, someone.

4. *C'est pain bénit!* serves him right!

5. *N'avoir pas inventé les pains à cacheter*, not to be very clever, to be a dud, a wash-out. *Il n'a pas inventé les pains à cacheter*, he'll never set the Thames on fire. (*Cp.* FIL 2.) (*Lit.* not to have invented wafers.)

paire, *sb.f.* *Se faire la paire*, to escape, to make tracks, to bunk, to hook it.

paître, *vb.intr.* *Envoyer paître quelqu'un*, to send someone to Jericho.

paix, *sb.f.* *Ficher la paix à quelqu'un*, to leave someone alone. *Fiche-moi la paix!* don't bother me! shut up!



pajot, *sb.m.* Bed.

pakson, *sb.m.* = PACSON.

palace, palasse, *adj.* First-rate, A1. *Un dîner tout à fait palace*, a slap-up dinner, something scrumptious. (The word *palace* in *palace-hotel* is coupled in the popular mind with an idea of luxury, and hence has been used as an adjective, meaning highly luxurious.)

pâle, *adj.* 1. *Se faire porter pâle*, to parade for medical inspection, to go sick.

2. *Un pâle voyou*, (*lit.* a pale-looking blackguard such as is to be met with in Paris slums; but practically the epithet has come to be used only as an intensive) a dirty cad, an arrant cad.

pallas, *sb.m.* Speech (usually long and tedious), patter.

palper. 1. *vb.tr.* To get, touch, one's money (wages, etc.). *Quand est-ce qu'on palpe?* when is pay-day?

2. *vb.pr.* *Tu peux te palper!* you may whistle for it! (*Cp.* BROSSER, FOUILLER.)

palpitant, *sb.m.* The heart.

paltoquet, *sb.m.* Ill-bred fellow, skunk.

panache, *sb.m.* *Avoir son panache*, to be drunk, screwed, tipsy. (*Cp.* AIGRETTE.)

panade, *sb.f.* *Être dans la panade*, to be in straitened circumstances, in the soup, in a fix, in a mess.

panais, *sb.m.* 1. Awkward, silly fellow, ninny. (*Cp.* CORNICHON, NAVET.)

2. *Des panais!* emphatic refusal. *Te prêter cent francs?* *Des panais!* lend you hundred francs? Not much! (*Cp.* *des nêfles!*)

Panam, *proper name.* (Rather endearing) Paris. (*Cp.* the 'Great Smoke' = London.)

panard, *sb.m.* Foot, trotter.

panetot, *sb.m.* Pop. pron. of *paletot*, coat, overcoat.

panier, *sb.m.* 1. *Panier à salade*, van in which prisoners are conveyed from police stations to prison; Black Maria.

2. *Faire le panier à deux anses*, to walk with a woman on each arm.

3. *Faire sauter l'anse du panier*, (of a servant) to get illicit spoils, to get pickings.

4. *Être dans le même panier que quelqu'un*, to be in the same fix, the same boat, as somebody.

panne, *sb.f.* Trifling part in a play, in which an actor cannot display his talent.

panné, *e*, *adj.* Penniless, broke, hard up.

panoufe, *sb.f.* Dirty, dissipated woman, prostitute of the lowest kind, draggletail.

panouille, *sb.f.* Fool, awkward fellow, noodle, stick-in-the-mud.

pante, *sb.m.* 1. Fellow, man, bloke.

2. (Name given by swindlers, burglars, and the like to their prospective victim.) Mark, mug.

pantoufle, *sb.f.* Inefficient fellow, dud, wash-out. See also CON.

pantoufflard, *sb.m.* and *adj.* (Pejorative) Stay-at-home, Lob-lie-by-the-fire.

Pantruche, *proper name.* Paris.

panuche, *sb.f.* = **PANOUE**.

papa, *sb.m.* *A la papa*, in a quiet, homely manner.

papelard, *sb.m.* Paper, official document, letter.

papier, *sb.m.* *Avoir une figure (mine) de papier maché*, to look pale, to have a muffin face.

papouille, *sb.f.* Squeeze, cuddle, caress.

paqueson, *sb.m.* = **PACSON**.

paquet, *sb.m.* 1. Awkward fellow, lout. (*Cp.* **BALLOT**.)

2. *Recevoir son paquet*, to be dismissed, to get the sack.

3. *Fichu comme un paquet de linge sale*, got up like a guy.

4. *Avoir son paquet*, to be drunk, to have had one's whack.

pardess, *sb.m.* (= *pardessus*) Overcoat.

parapluie, *sb.m.* *Envoyer quelqu'un chercher le parapluie de l'escouade*, to send someone for the squad's umbrella (*i.e.*, on a fool's errand).

pardingue, *sb.m.* = **PARDESS**.

paré, *e*, *adj.* and *p.p.* *Un boulot paré*, a comfortable situation, a cushy job.

pareil, *adj.* 1. *C'est du pareil au même*, it's six of one and half a dozen of the other, it's tweedledum and tweedledee.

2. *Pareil que*, substituted in popular speech for *pareil à*.



parigot, e, *adj.* Parisian.

Parisien, *proper name.* The paper *le Petit Parisien*.

parlant, *sb.m.* Talkie, cinema.

parler, *vb.intr.* *Tu parles!* emphatic asseveration: I should think so! not half! *Vous parlez d'un dîner!* it was some dinner!

paroissien, *sb.m.* *Un drôle de paroissien*, a queer bird, a queer cuss.

parterre, *sb.m.* *Prendre un billet de parterre*, to fall, come a cropper.
(*Cp.* BILLET.)

parti, *adj.* Slightly drunk, squiffy, fresh, fuddled.

partouse, *sb.f.* (= *partie de plaisir*) Spree. *Faire une partouse*, to dine out (esp. with partner who rouses amorous expectations).

pas. Elliptical expression = *n'est-ce pas?* *Vous viendrez, pas?* you'll come, won't you?

pas-grand-chose, *sb.m.f.* A worthless person, a bad egg, a ne'er-do-well.

passe, *sb.f.* 1. *Maison de passe*, bawdy house. *Chambre de passe*, bedroom let by the hour.

2. *Passe anglaise*, game of dice practised by sharpers.

passer, *vb.tr.* To give (a thrashing, talking to). *Il lui a passé une tournée*, he gave him a good thrashing. *Qu'est-ce qu'il lui a passé!* *il lui a passé quelque chose!* he gave him a rare talking to, dressing-down, etc.

patachon, *sb.m.* *Mener une vie de patachon*, to lead a loose life; (of a woman) to be gay.

patafioler, *vb.tr.* Only used in the following expressions: *que le diable vous patafiolle!* you can go to Jericho! *que le bon Dieu vous patafiolle!* about the same meaning, expresses discontent, impatience, 'go to blazes!'

patapouf, *sb.m.* Short stout fellow. (*Cp.* *gros plein de soupe.*)

patate, *sb.f.* 1. Potato.

2. *Des patates!* expresses emphatic refusal. (*Cp.* NÈFLES, NAVETS.)

3. Clumsy fellow, bumpkin. *Ta bouche, patate!* dry up, you chump!

patati. *Et patati et patate*, 'and so forth and so on.' Vague expression substituted for any statement supposed to be too long or complicated to be related (esp. used by women in

their gossip). *Elle m'a dit qu'elle était très fâchée contre vous, qu'elle ne voulait plus vous voir, et patati et patata*, she told me she was very angry with you, she never wanted to see you again, and all that sort of thing, you know.

patatras, *interj.* Conventional imitation of fall: bang! crash!
Patatras, le voilà par terre! down he comes, wallop!

pâtée, *sb.f.* Thrashing, dressing-down. *Attends un peu! t'auras la pâtée!* wait a minute! I'll dust your jacket for you!

patelin, *sb.m.* 1. Small place, village, etc. *Un joli patelin*, a nice little place.

2. (a) Birth-place (even said of a big town). *C'est mon patelin*, it is the place where I was born (or where I live), U.S.: my home-town.

(b) Fellow townsman.

patère, *sb.f.* = ACCROCHE-CŒUR.

paternel, *sb.m.* Father. *Je le dirai au paternel*, I'll tell the guv'nor, the pater.

pâteux, *euse*, *adj.* Out of sorts. *Je me sens pâteux ce matin*, I feel seedy this morning. (Cp. VASEUX.)

patiner, *vb.tr.* To handle awkwardly or rudely. *Il ne faut pas patiner ces fruits comme ça*, these fruits should not be pawed in that way.

patouiller, *vb.intr.* To paddle.

patraque. 1. *sb.f.* Watch (esp. of poor description), ticker.

2. *adj.* Out of sorts, wobbly. *Se sentir patraque*, to feel a bit queer, cheap, seedy.

patro, *sb.m.* (Abbr. of *patronage*.) Club for boys or girls under the direction of a R.C. priest in most French parishes. *Aller au, être du, fréquenter le, patro*, to be a member of such an association.

patron, *onne*, *sb.m.f.* 1. Father, husband, mother, wife, the guv'nor, the mater, the missus.

2. Head of a college.

patte, *sb.f.* 1. Paw.

2. *Avoir de la patte*, (of a painter) to be clever.

3. *Coup de patte*, allusive, depreciatory, remark. *Lancer un coup de patte à quelqu'un*, to have a fling at someone.

4. *Faire patte de velours*, to draw in one's claws.

5. *Pattes de mouche*, very thin and illegible handwriting.

6. *Pattes de lapin*, short whiskers.

7. *A pattes*, on foot. *Je ferai le chemin à pattes*, I'll foot it, stump it, leg it, hoof it.

8. *Mettre une affaire sur pattes*. (a) To start a business.

(b) To set an undertaking on its feet.

9. *A bas les pattes!* hands off! keep your hands to yourself! no fighting!

10. *Faire aux pattes*, to pinch, scrounge. *Ne laisse pas ton tabac, on te le fera aux pattes*, don't leave your tobacco, it'll be boned.

11. *Faire des pattes d'araignée*, see ARAIGNÉE.

paumaquer, *vb.tr.* = PAUMER.

paumer, *vb.tr.* 1. To smack (someone's face, etc.).

2. To lay hold of, to steal, catch. *Il m'a paumé ma montre*, he sneaked my watch.

3. To waste. *Paumer son temps*, to waste one's time.

4. To lose. *J'ai paumé*, I lost (gambling).

5. *Se faire paumer*. (a) To get caught, nabbed. (b) To be deceived, taken in.

pauvre, *adj.* *Mon pauv' papa, ma pauv' maman*, my poor father, my poor mother (i.e. dead).

payé, *p.p.* *C'est bien payé*, stock phrase without any reference to actual payment, meaning 'that's amply sufficient.' *Je lui ai donné 12 points sur 20, et c'est bien payé*, I gave him 12 marks out of 20 and that's quite enough.

payer. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) *Tu me le payeras!* I'll have my own back! (b) *Qu'est-ce que tu payes?* what drink are you standing me?

2. *vb.pr.* 1. *Se payer quelque chose*, to treat oneself to something (even without paying). *Je me suis payé un riche dîner à l'œil*, I got a topping dinner for nothing.

3. To have to stand, suffer. *Je me suis payé la route à pied*, I had to foot it. (Cp. s'APPUYER.)

4. *Se payer la tête de quelqu'un*, to pull somebody's leg.

5. *S'en payer*, to have one's fill of (anything), to have the time of one's life. *Il s'en paye*, he is keeping it up.

pays, *sb.m.* Person of the same town, village.

paysage, *sb.m.* *Faire bien dans le paysage*, to be useful, pleasant, called for, in connection with a definite state of things, to suit circumstances. *Il a hérité dernièrement; ça fait bien dans le paysage*, he's come in for money lately; that will just suit his book, that'll be very handy for him.



payse, *sb.f.* 1. Woman of the same town, village.
2. Sweetheart (among peasants).

P.C.N., *sb.m.* 1. Preliminary examination for medical students.
2. A medical student going up for the P.C.N. (*sciences physiques, chimiques et naturelles*).

peau, *sb.f.* 1. *Avoir quelqu'un dans la peau*, to be seriously and violently in love with someone. *Il a cette fille-là dans la peau*, he's got that girl in his bones.

2. *Avoir la peau de quelqu'un*, to kill somebody, to do for someone.

3. *La peau!* emphatic refusal: rats! nothing doing!

4. *Pour la peau*, for nothing.

5. *Peau de balle (et balai de crin)*, absolutely nothing. *Avoir peau de balle*, to throw crabs.

6. *Peau de zébie*, about the same meaning as *peau de balle*; but it is possible to say *de la peau de zébie* whereas *peau de balle* is never used with the partitive article.

7. Prostitute (esp. old and ugly), trollop.

8. *En peau*, naked, in the buff.

9. *Avoir la peau trop courte*, to feel sluggish, to have no hinge in one's back.

pébrec, *sb.m.* Umbrella, gamp, brolly.

pédard, *sb.m.* Clumsy, reckless cyclist.

pedzouille, *sb.m.* Peasant, clumsy fellow, bumpkin.

pêche, *sb.f.* Turd.

pégueaud, **e**, **péguenot**, **e**, *sb.m.f.* Peasant, clod-hopper.

peigne-cul, *sb.m.* 1. Lazy-bones.

2. Worthless fellow, scamp, rotter.

3. Stingy fellow.

peignée, *sb.f.* Thrashing, dressing down. *Je lui ficheraï une peignée*, I'll dust his jacket for him.

peinard, *adj.* Quiet, not worrying. *En (père) peinard*, quietly, without fretting oneself, slyly, on the Q.T. *Se tenir peinard*, to lie doggo.

peintre, *sb.m.* *Avoir les peintres*, to have one's menses. *Elle a les peintres*, her country cousins have come.

peinture, *sb.f.* *Je ne peux pas le voir en peinture*, I can't bear the sight of him.



peinturlurer, *vb.tr.* To apply paint to (in a rough, clumsy way), to bedaub.

pékin, *sb.m.* Civilian. *En pékin*, in mufti, in civies.

pelé, *sb.m.* *Il y avait quatre pelés et un tondu*, the audience was very scanty; there were only two or three nobodies.

pelle, *sb.f.* *Ramasser une pelle*, to fall, to come a cropper.

pelotage, *sb.m.* Cuddling, canoodling, feeling. *Pas de pelotage avant le mariage!* stock phrase, meaning there should be no undue familiarities between lovers till they are married, no messing about before marriage. *T'a du pelotage!* she's plump, crummy, cuddlesome.

pelote, *sb.f.* 1. *Faire sa pelote*, to make one's pile.

2. *Avoir les nerfs en pelote*, to be in a state of nervousness, excitement, to be irritable.

3. *Envoyer aux pelotes*, to send to the right about, to send flying.

4. *Faire la pelote*, to walk for punishment round the barrack yard; to do punishment drill.

peloter, *vb.tr.* 1. To cuddle, feel. (See PELOTAGE.)

2. *Peloter la dame de pique*, to be fond of playing at cards. (Cp. TAQUINER.)

3. To flatter, suck up to. *Il pelote le patron pour se faire augmenter*, he's sucking up to the boss to get a rise.

peloteur, *euse*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Coaxer.

pelousard, *sb.m.* One who frequents the *pelouse* at race-meetings (as opposed to the *tribunes* and the *pesage*).

pelouse, *sb.f.* Cheap enclosure on racecourse.

pelure, *sb.f.* Coat, overcoat, piece of clothing.

pénard, *sb.m.* = PEINARD.

péniche, *sb.f.* Boot. (*Lit.* barge, *cp.* BATEAU.)

penser, *vb.intr.* 1. *Penses-tu!* emphatic formula of denial. *Moi, j'imagine qu'il est en voyage.*—*Penses-tu?* I think he must be having a trip.—*Don't you believe it! Not he! Not likely! Tu lui as prêté mille balles?*—*Penses-tu!* you lent him a thousand francs?—*Not I! Not likely! What do you think?*

2. *Quand on pense!* is it possible! just imagine! isn't it frightful, shameful? *Il a claqué tout son saint-frusquin.*—*Quand on pense!* He's blued everything he'd got.—*You don't say so! Well, I never!*



pen*te*, *sb.f.* *Avoir le gosier en pente*, to be fond of boozing, to have a spiral swallow.

pépée, *sb.f.* 1. Childish dimin. for *poupée*, doll.

2. Term of endearment addressed to a little girl.

3. Prostitute.

pépère. 1. *sb.m.* (a) Childish reduplication for *père*, daddy. (Also used in the sense of *grand-père*.)

(b) Quiet old fellow, territorial soldier.

2. *adj.* Good, agreeable, first-rate, big of its kind. *Une maison tout à fait pépère*, quite a luxurious house; a snug, comfortable, house. *Regarde cet obus, il est pépère, celui-là!* have a look at that shell, it's a whopper! (A piece of work, a situation in the army, or anything else is said to be *pépère*, that is, agreeable, because old soldiers were supposed to get such cushy jobs during the war.)

pépettes, *sb.f.pl.* Money, dibs, etc. (*Cp.* AUBER.)

pépie, *sb.f.* *Avoir la pépie*, to be fond of wetting one's whistle. (*Lit.* to have the pip, a disease of poultry.)

pépin, *sb.m.* 1. Umbrella, brolly.

2. *Avoir un pépin pour quelqu'un*, to be in love with, to be gone on someone.

3. Trouble, temporary stoppage, impediment, hitch.

péquenaud, e, *sb.m.f.* = PÉGUENAUD.

péquin, *sb.m.* = PÉKIN.

perco, *sb.m.* 1. Abbr. for *percolateur* (apparatus for making coffee).

2. Information (from soldiers coming around the *percolateur* to get fresh news about the war).

père, *sb.m.* 1. *Coup du père François*, see FRANÇOIS.

2. *En père peïnard*, see PEINARD.

3. *Va donc, c'est pas ton père!* stock phrase of jocular encouragement to someone hitting something: 'get on with it!' (*Lit.* you may strike with all your might, it's not your father.)

perle, *sb.f.* *Lâcher une perle*, to let out a fart.

perlot, *sb.m.* Tobacco.

perlouse, *sb.f.* Pearl.

permanente, *sb.f.* Permanent wave (hairdressing).

perme, *sb.f.* (= *permission*) Leave.

Pérou, *proper name*. *Ça n'est pas le Pérou!* (a) It's not much (money). (b) It's not wonderful of its kind.

perpète, *sb.f.* (= *perpétuité*) *A perpète*, for ever, world without end.

perroquet, *sb.m.* *Étrangler un perroquet*, to drink an absinthe (from its green colour.)

perruque, *sb.f.* 1. Hair (natural). *Tu parles d'une perruque!* what a head of hair!

2. *Une vieille perruque*, an old crock.

persil, *sb.m.* 1. *Aller au persil*, (of a prostitute) to do the street.

2. *Faire son persil*. (a) (Properly) To take an early walk in the Bois de Boulogne.

(b) To take a walk in a frequented place for display, to promenade.

pèse, *sb.m.* Money. *Être au pèse*, to be well off.

pet, *sb.m.* 1. Fart.

2. *Il n'y a pas de pet*, there is no danger, it's all serene.

3. *Ça ne vaut pas un pet de lapin*, it's not worth a tupenny damn.

4. *Avoir un pet de travers*, to be out of sorts.

5. *Faire du pet*, to kick up a dust.

pétard, *sb.m.* 1. Buttocks, backside.

2. Noise. *Faire de pétard*, to be noisy, to protest vehemently, to kick up a row.

pète, *sb.m.* = **PÉTARD**. *Se manier le pétè*, to hurry up. *Allons, manie* (pron. *magne*) -*toi le pétè!* come along, get a move on!

péter, *vb.intr.* 1. To fart.

2. To crack, crackle.

3. *Envoyer pétèr quelqu'un*, to send someone to the devil.

4. *Arriver (gagner) en pétant*, to win hands down. (Cp. **DOIGT**.)

5. *Péter sec*, to be a martinet.

6. *Péter plus haut que le cul*, to endeavour to make a show with insufficient means.

pète-sec, *sb.m.* One who is rigorous as to rules, discipline, etc., martinet.

péteux, *sb.m.* Coward. *Il est parti comme un péteux*, he skulked off.

petiot, *e*, *adj.* Wee, tiny.

petit, *sb.m.* 1. *Faire des petits*, to assume bigger proportions, to increase. (Lit. to bring forth young ones. This expression is

often used ironically in the sentence *vous m'en donnerez un s'il fait des petits*, don't forget to give me one if it has pups, meaning that the thing referred to is quite poor, bad, queer of its kind, and that one would not care to have the like.)

2. Term of endearment used for a man or a woman. *Mon petit*, dear, darling.

petit-crevé, *sb.m.* Dandy, masher.

petit-lait, *sb.m.* *Ça se boit comme du petit-lait*, it's very good, sweet. (*Lit.* you can drink it like whey. Often said of strong spirits.)

petit-nègre, *sb.m.* Broken French spoken by the blacks in French colonies.

pétoche, *sb.f.* Fear, funk. *Il avait une pétoche de tous les diables!* he was in a deuce of a funk.

pétoire, *sb.f.* Revolver, 'pop-gun.'

peton, *sb.m.* Little foot. (Child's word.)

pétrin, *sb.m.* *Être dans le pétrin*, to be hard up, in a fix, in a mess, in the soup.

pétrousquin, *sb.m.* 1. Civilian.

2. Fellow (contemptuous). *Qu'est-ce qu'il me veut, ce pétrousquin-là?* what does that blighter want?

peu, *adv.* 1. *Être un peu là*, to be all there.

2. *Un peu mon neveu!* familiar asseveration: I should think so! you bet, old chap!

3. *Très peu, très peu pour moi! non, très peu de ce genre!* no, thank you, I am not having any! not much! not I!

pèze, *sb.m.* = PÈSE.

pharamineux, *euse*, *adj.* = FARAMINEUX.

phare, *sb.m.* *Piquer un phare*, to blush.

pharmacie, *sb.f.* Pop. pron. of *pharmacie*. (*Cp.* MAIRERIE.)

pharmaco, *sb.m.* (= *pharmacien*) Chemist.

piaule, *sb.f.* Room, lodgings, digs.

pic, *à*, *adv.* *Vous tombez à pic*, you've come just in the nick of time.

picaillons, *sb.m.pl.* Money, dough, tin, etc. (*Cp.* AUBER.)

picolo, *sb.m.* Light wine.



picot, *sb.m.* One who empties barrels of wine or spirits at the *Entrepôt de Bercy* in Paris.

picton, **piqueton**, *sb.m.* Wine.

pied, *sb.m.* 1. *Il y a du pied* (sometimes *dans la chaussette* is added), it's all right, we have plenty of time, we need not worry, we'll manage to do it.

2. *S'en aller les pieds devant*, to go off feet foremost, to die, to be buried.

3. Duffer, fool, silly fellow (as brainless as a foot). *Un vieux pied*, an old crock.

4. *Faire du pied*, to push slightly with the foot under the table (esp. as an amorous overture), to play footy, footums.

5. *Avoir les pieds en dentelle, nickelés*, see *DENTELLE, NICKELÉ*.

6. *Jouer un pied de cochon à quelqu'un*, to play a dirty trick on someone, (esp. by not keeping an engagement). *Il m'a joué un pied de cochon*, he left me badly in the lurch.

7. *Se tirer des pieds*. (a) To make off. (b) To get out of some scrape.

8. *Ne pas se moucher du pied*, see *MOUCHER* 4.

9. *Mettre quelqu'un à pied*, to dismiss, sack, someone.

pied-de-banc, *sb.m.* Sergeant.

pierre, *sb.f.* *Être malheureux comme les pierres*, to be very unhappy, as wretched as can be.

pierreuse, *sb.f.* Prostitute of the lowest order, street-walker. (*Cp. faire le trottoir*.)

pierrot. 1. Fellow. *Un drôle de pierrot*, a queer bird.

2. *Étrangler un pierrot*, to drink a glass of white wine. (*Cp. étrangler un perroquet*.)

pieu, *sb.m.* Bed, downy.

pieuter, *vb.intr.* and *pr.* To go to bed, to seek the downy.

pif, *sb.m.* Nose, boko, conk.

pige, *sb.f.* 1. Hour.

2. Year.

3. (a) *Faire la pige à quelqu'un*, to excel, surpass, someone. *Il est plus fort que moi en géométrie, mais je lui fais la pige en grec*, he's better up than I in Euclid, but I lick him in Greek.

(b) *Faire la pige d'un manuscrit*, to calculate approximately the number of printed pages of a MS., to cast off a MS.

pigeon, *sb.m.* Dupe. *Plumer un pigeon*, to swindle a greenhorn, to pluck a pigeon.

piger, *vb.tr.* 1. To understand, tumble to. *Il ne pige pas l'arithmétique*, he can't understand arithmetic. *Piges-tu la combine?* do you twig the move?

2. To see, make out. *Pige-moi celui-là!* just look at that one! take a look at that!

3. To catch, get, pinch. *J'ai pigé un rhume*, I caught a cold. *Il s'est fait piger*, he got nabbed.

pignocher, *vb.tr.* To pick at one's food (with reluctance or lack of appetite).

pignouf, *sb.m.* Vulgar, ill-bred fellow, bounder.

pilant, e, *adj.* Quite comical, screaming, killing. (*Cp.* BIDONNANT.)

pile, *sb.f.* Beating, thrashing. *Donner, recevoir, une pile*, to give, get, a licking. *Flanquer la pile à quelqu'un*, to beat, lick, somebody (in a competition).

piler, *vb.tr.* 1. *Piler du poivre*, to speak maliciously of somebody. (*Cp.* *casser du sucre*.)

2. *La piler*, to have to do without food, to be famished.

3. To toil along, pound along, on a bicycle.

piloche, *sb.f.* Tooth, grinder.

pilonner. 1. *vb.tr.* *Mil.*: To pound with shells.

2. *vb.intr.* = PILER 3.

pilule, *sb.f.* Failure. *Prendre la pilule*, to fail in an undertaking, to come a cropper.

pinard, *sb.m.* Wine.

pince, *sb.f.* Hand, flipper. 1. *Serrer la pince à quelqu'un*, to shake hands with somebody.

2. *Être chaud de la pince*, to be lustful (of a man). *C'est un chaud de la pince*, he is hot stuff.

pinceau, *sb.m.* 1. Broom.

2. Leg, pin.

pince-cul, *sb.m.* An informal dance, a hop.

pincer, *vb.tr.* 1. To get, catch. *Pincer un rhume*, to catch a cold. *Se faire pincer*, to get nabbed.

2. *En pincer pour*, to be fond of (a thing); to be gone on (a person).



pincette, *sb.f.* *Lancer à la pincette*, to throw the dice in a certain way so as to turn up a desired number.

pincettes, *sb.f.pl.* 1. Legs, pins. *Tricoter des pincettes*, to run, make tracks.

2. *Embrasser à pincettes*, to pinch someone's cheeks while giving him or her a kiss.

pinter, *vb.tr.* To drink, booze.

pioche, *sb.f.* *Tête de pioche*, blockhead.

piocher, *vb.tr.* To study hard. *Piocher le grec*, to be swotting Greek. *Piocher un examen*, to grind for an exam. (*Lit.* to dig with a mattock.)

piôle, *sb.f.* = **PIAULE**.

pion, *sb.m.* Junior master in French *lycées*, usher.

pioncer, *vb.intr.* To sleep.

pionner, *vb.tr.* and *intr.* (School slang) To peach. (*Lit.* to give away to the **PION**.)

pionneur, *adj.* and *sb.m.* (School slang) Boy who gives away his fellows to the **PION**; tell-tale, peach, sneak.

pioupiou, *sb.m.* Soldier (esp. infantryman).

pipe, *sb.f.* 1. *Tête de pipe*, funny head. (*Cp.* **JACOB**.)

2. *Casser sa pipe*, to kick the bucket. (*Cp.* **ARME**.)

3. *Prendre la pipe*, to fail badly, to come a cropper, to come to grief.

pipelet, *ette*, *sb.m.f.* Doorkeeper, concierge.

piper. 1. *vb.tr.* To catch. *Se faire piper*, to get caught, nabbed.

2. *vb.intr.* *Ne pas piper*, to keep silent, not to show the least sign of emotion. *Il n'a pas pipé*, he never said a word.

pipi, *sb.m.* (Child's word.) *Faire pipi*, to piddle, to pee.

Pipo. 1. *proper name*. The *École Polytechnique*.

2. *sb.m.* *Un pipo*, a cadet of this school.

piqué, *e*, *adj.* 1. Crazy, potty, etc. (*Cp.* **DINGO**.)

2. *Pas piqué des vers*, good, strong, first-rate of its kind. (*Lit.* not worm-eaten. *Cp.* not so dusty.) One sometimes says playfully: *pas piqué des hannetons*, same meaning.

pique-pouces, *sb.m.* Tailor, the ninth part of a man.

pique-prunes, *sb.m.* = **PIQUE-POUCES**.

piquer. 1. *vb.tr.* Used in the meaning of 'to get, have, take,' in various expressions:

- (a) *Piquer un phare (fard, soleil)*, to blush.
- (b) *Piquer une bonne (mauvaise) note*, to get good (bad) marks.
- Piquer une sèche*, to be floored (in an exam).
- (c) *Piquer un roupillon (un somme)*, to take a nap.
- (d) *Piquer un emballage*, to put on a spurt (racing).
- Piquer un cent mètres*, to do a hundred-metre sprint.

2. *vb.pr.* *Se piquer le nez*, see NEZ 1.

piqueton, *sb.m.* = PICTON.

pirate, *sb.m.* Money-grabber.

pire, *adj.* Bad of its kind. Not a comparative in pop. speech; one says *il est aussi pire que (or comme) l'autre*, he's as bad as the other. *C'est encore plus pire*, it's still worse. (*Cp.* 'not so worse.')

pissant, *e*, *adj.* Exceedingly comical.

pissenlit, *sb.m.* *Manger les pissenlits par la racine*, to be dead, to push up the daisies. (*Cp.* ARME.)

pisser. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) *Faire pisser*, to make laugh.

(b) *En faire pisser à quelqu'un*, to make someone work hard, to give one a bad time. *Il m'en a fait pisser*, he gave me beans.

(c) *Pisser dans un violon*, to exert oneself uselessly. *C'est comme si tu pissais dans un violon*, it's no go, it's like talking to the wind.

(d) *Pisser des lames de rasoir*, to piss pins and needles (*i.e.* to have gonorrhoea).

(e) *Pisser au cul de quelqu'un*, to hate and despise somebody. *Je lui pisse au cul!* he can go to hell for all I care!

2. *vb.pr.* *Se pisser*, to laugh fit to split.

pisseuse, *sb.f.* Girl, slut.

pistache, *sb.f.* *Prendre une pistache*, to get drunk, screwed.

pister, *se*, *vb.pr.* To make off, to make tracks.

pistolet, *sb.m.* 1. Urinal (vessel).

2. Fellow. *Un drôle de pistolet*, a queer fish.

piston, *sb.m.* 1. Influence. *Avoir du piston*, to be backed by an influential personage, to be pushed.

2. (= CAPISTON) Captain.

3. Student of the *École Centrale* (in allusion to the study of mechanics).

- pistonner**, *vb.tr.* To use one's influence for. *C'est qu'il a été pistonné*, he had friends, you see! he was given a lift.
- pitaine**, *sb.m.* Abbr. of *capitaine*.
- piton**, *sb.m.* Nose (esp. big).
- pitou**, *sb.m.* French soldier (esp. green from the country).
- pive**, *sb.m.* Wine.
- pivot**, *sb.m.* Leg. *Voilà trois heures qu'on est sur son pivot!* that's three hours we've been on our pins!
- pivoter**, *vb.intr.* 1. To turn about aimlessly.
 2. *Faire pivoter*, to keep someone on the go, to treat hardly. *Un officier qui fait pivoter ses hommes*, an officer who gives his men a bad time, who puts them through it.
- place**, *sb.f.* *Jouer un cheval à la place*, to back a horse for a place.
- placé**, *adj.* (Of a horse in horse races) Placed.
- plafond**, *sb.m.* 1. *Avoir une araignée dans le plafond*, to be somewhat crazy, to have a tile loose, a bee in one's bonnet, bats in the belfry. (*Cp.* attic, upper story.)
 2. Any maximum. *Atteindre le plafond*, to reach the maximum, the limit (emission of banknotes, etc.). *Le plafond est crevé*, the maximum is exceeded.
 3. (Aviation) Sky. *C'est bas de plafond*, there are low-sailing clouds.
- plafonner**, *vb.intr.* To reach the *plafond*. (See PLAFOND 2.)
- plaisir**, *sb.m.* *Pour varier les plaisirs*, stock phrase used in jest with reference to things which are not 'pleasures' but annoying or indifferent. *D'habitude j'ai une bronchite tous les hivers, cette fois j'ai eu la typhoïde, pour varier les plaisirs*, as a rule I have bronchitis every winter, this time just for a change I got typhoid fever.
- plan**, *sb.m.* 1. *Il n'y a pas plan*, it is impossible, nothing doing.
 2. *Laisser en plan*, to leave in the lurch.
- planche**, *sb.f.* *Planche-à-pain*, ungracefully lean and long person, flat-breasted woman.
- plancher**, *sb.m.* *Débarrasser le plancher*, to clear out.
- planque**, *sb.f.* 1. Place, spot. *Je connais une petite planque où on est bien*, I know a little spot where one is comfortable.
 2. Money put by. *Je ne dépense pas ma planque*, I don't spend my savings.

planquer, *vb.tr.* 1. To hide.

2. To put money by.

planter, *vb.tr.* 1. *Planter là*, (a) to give (someone) the slip; (b) to jilt, to give (someone) the chuck, the mitten, the push.

2. To plant a piece of old furniture, etc., in some out-of-the-way place (a farm, etc.) so as to allure amateurs. (*Cp.* to plant = to conceal money.)

plaquer, *vb.tr.* To cast off, to chuck (lover, wife), to give someone the mitten. *Plaquer sa femme*, to give one's wife the chuck. *Je plaquerai tout le bazar!* I'll chuck up the whole caboodle!

plat, *sb.m.* 1. *Faire du plat à une femme*, to make love to a woman, to tell a woman the tale.

(b) *Faire du plat (à quelqu'un)*, to flatter, coax, toady (someone).

2. *Faire un plat de quelque chose*, to praise something highly.

3. *Prendre un plat*, (in diving) to come a belly-flopper.

plateau, *sb.m.* Platform on which plays are exhibited, stage.

platine, *sb.f.* *Avoir une platine*, to have the gift of the gab. *Quelle platine!* what a chatterbox!

plats, *sb.m.pl.* Faked dice used by sharpers (from one of the faces being broader than the other).

plein. 1. *adj.* Drunk, tight, full up. *Plein comme une huître* (or *une bourrique*), tight as a drum, full as a tick.

2. *adv.* *Tout plein*, very much. *J'aime tout plein sortir*, I simply love to take a walk. *C'est tout plein joli!* it's ever so pretty!

pleurer, *vb.intr.* *Il a pleuré pour l'avoir*, said when somebody possesses, wears, etc., something rather poor or scanty of its kind. *Il n'a pas pleuré pour l'avoir*, it is big, sufficient, etc., of its kind (usually of a piece of clothing).

pleuvoir, *vb.intr.* 1. *Il pleut!* no! never! *Voulez-vous me rendre ce service?*—*Il pleut!* will you do me this service?—Never in my life!

2. *Vous pouvez aller voir s'il pleut*, it is most doubtful, do not rely on that.

pli, *sb.m.* 1. *Ça ne fait pas un pli*, it's a sure thing. *Il arrivera premier, ça ne fait pas un pli*, he'll come first, that's a dead cert.

2. *Ça ne fera pas un pli*, it'll be as easy as can be.

plombe, *sb.f.* Hour.

plomber, 1. *vb.tr.* *Se faire plomber*, to catch syphilis, to get peppered.

2. *vb.intr.* To stink.

ploum, *sb.m.* A gullible person, a mug. (*Cp.* BILLE.)

plumard, *sb.m.*, **plume**, *sb.f.* Bed, downy.

plumer, *se*, *vb.pr.* To go to bed, to seek the downy.

plumet, *sb.m.* *Avoir son plumet*, to be slightly drunk, half sprung. (*Cp.* AIGRETTE.)

plutôt, *adv.* Certainly. *Alors tu quitterais ta boîte?—Plutôt!* then you would chuck up your job?—Rather!

pneu, *sb.m.* 1. (Abbr. of *pneumatique*.) Pneumatic tyre.

2. (= *petit bleu*.) Telegram-letter sent in Paris by pneumatic tube.

pochard, *e*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Drunkard, boozy.

pocharder, *se*, *vb.pr.* To booze.

poche, *sb.f.* 1. *Tu peux te fouiller si tu as des poches*, don't you wish you may get it, you may whistle for it.

2. *Il n'a pas sa langue dans sa poche*, he is not at a loss for a reply, he's got a glib tongue.

3. *N'avoir pas ses yeux dans sa poche*, to be wide-awake.

4. *Mets ça dans ta poche avec ton mouchoir par dessus*, put that in your pipe and smoke it.

pochetée, *sb.f.* *En avoir une pochetée*, to be utterly silly. *Va donc, hé, pochetée!* get away, you duffer!

pognon, *sb.m.* Money, cash, dough. *Être au pognon*, to be well off, to have the dibs. (*Cp.* AUBER.)

po(i)gne, *sb.f.* (= *main*) *Haut les pognes!* hands up!

poignet, *sb.m.* *Se casser les poignets sur quelque chose*, to steal something. *Ne te casse pas les poignets sur mon tabac!* don't you nab my baccy!

poil, *sb.m.* 1. *A poil*, naked. *Être à poil*, to be stripped to the skin, to the buff.

2. *Avoir du poil*, to be plucky, to have spunk.

3. *Faire le poil à quelqu'un*, to surpass, to excel, to lick, somebody.

4. *Tomber sur le poil à quelqu'un*, to attack, to scold, to be down upon, somebody.

5. *En douce poil-poil*, furtively, slyly, on the Q.T.



6. *Avoir un poil dans la main*, to be a sluggard, a slacker.
7. *Flanquer (ficher, foutre) un poil à quelqu'un*, to give someone a wiggling, a dressing down, a blowing up.
6. *Poil de carotte (or de brique)*, red-haired person, 'ginger,' 'carrots.'
9. *Poil au nez*, idiotic rhyming reply to any sentence ending in *é*. *Alors, tu sais, il s'est marié.—Poil au nez.*
- poilant, e, adj.** Highly comical, screaming.
- poiler, se, vb.pr.** To laugh heartily, to have plenty of fun.
- poilu, sb.f.** French soldier (of the Great War).
- poire.** 1. *sb.f.* (a) Head, nut.
(b) *Faire sa poire*, to look pretentious, to give oneself airs.
(c) Silly, gullible person, muff.
2. *adj.* *Être poire*, to be gullible, easily deceived.
- poireau, sb.m.** 1. Silly fellow, juggins.
2. *Faire le poireau*, to be kept waiting, hanging about.
3. A decoration awarded to people who have distinguished themselves in professions connected with agriculture. *Il a eu le poireau*, he was admitted into the order of *Mérite agricole*.
- poireauter, vb.intr.** To be kept waiting, to kick one's heels.
- poirer, vb.tr.** To take, lay hold of, capture. *Se faire poirer*, to get nabbed.
- poison, sb.f.** Nasty woman. *Une vieille poison*, an old pest, a hell-cat.
- poisse.** 1. *sb.f.* Bad luck; trouble, botheration. *Si tu ne viens pas à temps ce sera la poisse*, if you don't come in time I'll be in the soup.
2. *sb.m.* (= *poisson*) Ponce. (*Cp.* MAQUEREAU.)
- poisser, vb.tr.** 1. To steal, scrounge.
2. To catch. *Se faire poisser*, to get nabbed.
3. To bore. *Tu nous poisses*, you are getting on our nerves, you're boring us to death.
- poisson, sb.m.** 1. *Donner à manger aux poissons*, to be sea-sick, to feed the fishes.
2. *Engueuler comme du poisson pourri*, to abuse with the greatest energy.
3. Pimp, ponce.
- poivre, adj.** Drunk. *Il est poivre*, he's well sprung.
- poivret, sb.m.** Drunkard, boozier, soaker.

polichinelle, *sb.m.* 1. *Avoir un polichinelle dans le tiroir*, to be with child, to be in pod. (*Cp.* Jack-in-the-cellar.)

2. *Mener une vie de polichinelle*, to lead a loose life.

polisson, *e*, *adj.* *Des yeux polissons*, lascivious eyes.

polochon, *sb.m.* Bolster.

pommade, *sb.f.* *Passer de la pommade à quelqu'un*, to flatter someone, to butter, sugar, someone. *Pas tant de pommade!* none of your blarney!

pommadin, *sb.m.* Dandy, swank.

pomme, *sb.f.* 1. Face, head, nut, onion. *Sucer la pomme à quelqu'un*, to kiss somebody. (*Cp.* 'costard' in Elizabethan English.)

2. *Aux pommes*, first-rate, A1.

3. *Ma pomme, sa pomme*, myself, himself.

4. *Tomber dans les pommes*, to faint.

pommé, *e*, *adj.* First-rate, slap-up, etc.

pompe, *sb.f.* 1. Boot. (No connexion whatever with 'pump.')

2. (*Saint-Cyr* slang) Work, grind.

3. *Avoir un coup de pompe*, (cycling) to be exhausted. (The expression is antiphrastic as it rather suggests that a cyclist is in excellent condition.)

pomper. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To drink, booze.

(b) To study hard, to grind, swot.

2. *vb.intr.* To rain.

pompette, *adj.* Squiffy, half-sprung.

pompier, *adj.* Conventional, academic and commonplace. *Style, discours, etc., pompier.*

pompon, *sb.m.* 1. *Avoir son pompon*, to have had a drop too much, to be squiffy. (*Cp.* AIGRETTE.)

2. *A lui le pompon!* expresses admiration for abilities of any kind; he excels anybody. *Pour offrir un verre, à lui le pompon!* he is always the first to stand a drink. *S'il s'agit de se battre, à lui le pompon!* when it comes to fighting he is a great chap! he's it! *A moi le pompon!* I am a card, I am!

pondre, *vb.tr.* To bring forth. *Pondre un article, un discours*, to deliver oneself of an article, a speech (with implication of easy mediocrity).

Pontoise, *proper name.* *Revenir de Pontoise*, to be out of it, not in

the know. *Il a toujours l'air de revenir de Pontoise*, he never seems to know what o'clock it is.

Popinque, *proper name*. *La Popinque*, the street (or district) of Popincourt, in Paris.

popote. 1. *sb.f.* (a) Cooking. *Faire la popote*, to cook the meals.
(b) *Faire popote, être en popote*, to mess together.

2. *adj.* Quiet, humdrum. *Avoir l'air popote*, (of a lady) to look homely, domestic (rather contemptuous).

Popu, *proper name*. *Le Popu*, the newspaper, *Le Populaire*.

population, *sb.f.* *Les populations*, (semi-jocularly) the people.
Vous allez ahurir les populations avec un chapeau pareil! you will flabbergast everybody with a hat like that!

populo, *sb.m.* Mob, crowd.

porsiffe, *sb.f.* (= *portion*) Dish for one person at a restaurant.

port de mer, *sb.m.* Any place, town or village (usually disparaging). *Si tu crois que je vais m'enterrer dans ce port de mer!* don't you believe I am going to bury myself in that hole of a place!

porté, e, *adj.* and *p.p.* 1. *C'est bien (mal) porté de . . .*, it is good (bad) style to. . .

2. *Être porté sur*, to have a liking, a bent, for.

portefeuille, *sb.m.* 1. Bed.

2. *Mettre un lit en portefeuille*, to make an apple-pie bed.

porter, se, *vb.pr.* *Se porter bien*, (of a thing) to be good, efficient of its kind. *Un coup de poing qui se portait bien*, a real hard punch.

portion, *sb.f.* *Demi-portion*, very short fellow.

portrait, *sb.m.* Face, dial, mug. *Je lui abîmerai le portrait*, I'll spoil his beauty for him.

posséder, *vb.tr.* To deceive, dupe, take in.

postillon, *sb.m.* *Envoyer des postillons*, to sputter in speaking.

potache, *sb.m.* Pupil of a *lycée*.

potard, *sb.m.* Student in pharmacy, assistant in a chemist's shop, a chemist.

potasser, *vb.tr.* To study, to swot at. *Potasser son bachot*, to grind for one's *baccalauréat*.

potasseur, *sb.m.* Swot.

pot-de-chambre, *sb.m.* *T'occupe pas du pot-de-chambre!* don't you worry, that's none of your business!

pot de fleurs, *sb.m.* *Bousculer le pot de fleurs*, see BOUSCULER.

pote, *sb.m.* = POTEAU.

poteau, *sb.m.* Chum, pal. *Mon vieux poteau!* old cock! old bean!
C'est un poteau, he's a sport, a good chap.

potée, *sb.f.* Great quantity (of anything), bags, pots.

potin, *sb.m.* Noise. *Faire du potin*, to be noisy, to kick up a row.
Ça a fait du potin, it was quite a scandal. (*Cp.* BACCHANAL.)

pouce, *sb.m.* 1. *Et le pouce, et puis le pouce!* without reckoning the rest, and a bit in! *Il vous a volé votre montre?*—*Oui, et puis le pouce!* he stole your watch, didn't he?—I should think he did, and a lot more into the bargain!

2. *Manger sur le pouce*, to take a snack. *Prendre un verre sur le pouce*, to drink off a glass hastily.

3. *S'en mordre les pouces*, to be sorry for it, to smart for it.

4. *Mettre les pouces*, to give in.

5. *Coup de pouce*, help (chiefly obtained by favour). *J'espère avoir un coup de pouce*, I hope I'll be pushed, have a lift, a shove on. (*Cp.* PISTON.)

poudre, *sb.f.* 1. *Prendre la poudre d'escampette*, to make off, to skedaddle, to make tracks.

2. *Poudre de perlimpinpin*, quack's drug.

3. *N'avoir pas inventé la poudre*, not to be very clever. *Il n'a pas inventé la poudre*, he'll never set the Thames on fire.

4. *Jeter de la poudre aux yeux*, to show off, to impose upon. (Not 'to throw dust in somebody's eyes,' as is to be found in most dictionaries.)

pouf. 1. *interj.* Expresses the noise of a fall: flop, bang, wallop!

2. *sb.m.* *Faire un pouf*, to go bankrupt.

poufiasse, *sb.f.* 1. Prostitute of low order, strumpet, drab.

2. Any woman (contemptuous).

pouic, *pron.* Nothing. *Il n'entrave que pouic*, he does not understand at all.

pouilleux, *euse*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* *Des pouilleux*, stony broke people.

poulain, *sb.m.* Athlete in the care of a manager.

poule, *sb.f.* 1. Gay woman, tart. (Often *poule de luxe* without actual reference to the girl's being a showy one.)

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2. Any woman, girl, mistress. (*Cp.* bird.)
 3. *Poule mouillée*, effeminate man or boy, milksop, molly-coddle.
 4. *Quand les poules auront des dents*, when pigs fly.
- Poulemince, Pouleminse, Poulminche**, *proper name.* *La Maison Poulemince*, the Prefecture of Police.
- poulet**, *sb.m.* 1. Love-letter. (*Cp.* capon, *Love's Labour's Lost*, IV, i. 56.)
2. Any letter.
 3. *C'est du poulet!* it's the cheese!
 4. Detective.
- pouloper**, *vb.intr.* To gallop. (A false anglicism derived from *galoper* and 'pull up'.)
- poupée**, *sb.f.* 1. Term of endearment addressed to a little girl.
2. Gay woman, dolly.
- poupoule**, *sb.f.* Term of endearment, ducky, chickabiddy.
- pour**, *prep.* Used in pop. French as a postposition. *Il a réussi, mais il avait travaillé pour*, he has succeeded, but he had worked for it.
- pousse-café**, *sb.m.* Any small glass of liqueur or spirits drunk after coffee.
- pousse-cailloux**, *sb.m.* Infantryman, foot-slogger.
- pousser**, *vb.tr.* *En pousser une*, to sing a song. *Pousse-nous-en une!* tip us a stave!
- pratique**, *sb.f.* = CLIENT.
- Préfectance**, *proper name.* Pejorative (or jocular) for the *Préfecture de police* in Paris.
- première, de**, *adv.* Well, finely, effectively. *Il l'a engueulé de première*, he gave him a rare talking to. *J'ai réussi de première*, I have been getting on first-rate.
- premier-Paris**, *sb.m.* Leading article in newspaper.
- prendre**, *vb.tr.* 1. *Prendre quelque chose (pour son rhume)*, *prendre*, to undergo, to be subjected to, hardships, punishment, etc. *Il faisait une chaleur étouffante, qu'est-ce que nous avons pris!* it was stifling hot, it was unbearable. *Qu'est-ce que je vais prendre si j'arrive en retard*, I am going to get it hot if I am late. *Il a été très malade, qu'est-ce qu'il a pris!* he was very ill, a real bad go!



2. *Je sors d'en prendre*, I've had some, I'm not having any more, I'm fed up with it. (*Cp. très peu de ce genre.*)

3. *Ça ne prend pas!* it's no use, no go! don't try that trick on me! that won't wash!

princesse, *sb.f.* *Aux frais de la princesse*, at the public expense.

prix, *sb.m.* 1. *Dans les grands prix*, very much, on a large scale. *Il a été battu dans les grands prix*, he's been licked and well licked. (*Cp. dans les grandes largeurs.*)

2. *Au prix où est le beurre*, (a) at the present cost of living, (b) as things go nowadays.

probloc, *sb.m.* Landlord.

prof, *sb.m.* Abbreviation of *professeur*.

profonde, *sb.f.* Pocket.

prolo, *sb.m.* (= *prolétaire*) Proletarian.

promener, *vb.intr.* *Envoyer promener*, to send to the right about.

propre, *adj.* *Ça serait du propre!* that would fairly put the lid on it! that would be a pretty kettle of fish! (*Cp. il ne manquerait plus que ça!*)

proprio, *sb.m.* (= *propriétaire*) Landlord.

pruneau, *sb.m.* Bullet.

prunes, *sb.m.* *Pour des prunes*, for nothing, uselessly.

pschutt. 1. *sb.m.* Fashionable style, chic.

2. *adj.* Chic, stylish.

pschutteux, *sb.m.* A swell (about 1880).

prusco, *sb.m.* Abbr. of *Prussien*. (Also applied to Germans in general.)

P.T.T. Abbr. of *Postes, télégraphes, téléphones*. *Les P.T.T.*, the personnel of the P.O.

pucelage, *sb.m.* Maidenhead. *Elle a son pucelage*, she is still a virgin.

pucelot, *sb.m.* = PUCELAGE.

puce, *sb.f.* 1. *Secouer les puces à quelqu'un*, to give someone a talking to, a trouncing.

2. *Secouer ses puces*, to stretch oneself out.

3. *Charmer les puces*, to get drunk before going to bed, to take a night-cap.

4. *Avoir, mettre, la puce à l'oreille*, to be, make, uneasy, suspicious, cautious. *Quand j'ai vu qu'il ne payait pas, ça m'a mis la puce à l'oreille*, when I saw he did not pay, I became suspicious. *Je lui ai mis la puce à l'oreille*, I told him to be very cautious. (Meaning different from 'to be sent away with a flea in one's ear'.)

5. *Boisseau de puces*, fidgety child.

pucier, *sb.m.* Bed, bug-walk, flea-bag.

purée, *sb.f.* 1. Distress, poverty. *Être dans la purée*, to be stony broke, down and out, in the soup.

2. Drink of absinthe (from its opaque colour).

purge, *sb.f.* 1. Thrashing. *Recevoir, donner, administrer, une purge*, to get, to give, a thrashing.

2. *Prendre la purge*, to suffer, to be impaired. *Ce régiment a pris la purge*, this regiment had many losses, went through it. *Ils ont pris une purge*, they've been properly licked, they've had their gruel.

purin, *sb.m.* Student at the Grignon school of agriculture. (*Lit.* liquid manure. *Cp.* FAGOT 1.)

purotin, *e, sb.m.f.* One who is in the PURÉE, hard up, in the soup.

putain, *sb.f.* Strumpet. (A low word used as a term of abuse and figuring in oaths often without reference to its proper meaning, for instance *putain de sort!* damn bad luck! etc. The word, now regarded as very rude, was formerly used in correct parlance. One of Molière's characters calls another *double fils de putain* (*Amphitryon*, 14, 7); and Saint-Simon tells us that the Queen would often say of Madame de Montespan, Louis XIVth's mistress, '*Cette pute me fera mourir!*' *Pute* (the original form of *putain*) was not at first a pejorative; it meant 'girl.' The word underwent the same process of deterioration as *garce* and *fille*.)

putasser, *vb.intr.* To lead the life of a PUTASSIER.

putasserie, *sb.f.* 1. Life of a PUTAIN.

2. Habitual frequentation of PUTAINS.

putassier, *sb.m. and adj.* Habitual frequenter of PUTAINS, Jack-whore. *Langage putassier*, whore's language.

pute, *sb.f.* = PUTAIN.

putois, *sb.m.* See GUEULER.



Q

quai, *sb.m.* *Au bout du quai les ballots*, see **BALLOT**.

quarante, *adj.* *Se mettre en quarante*, to assume the attitude of a boxer, to square up.

quart, *sb.m.* Military mug.

quart-d'heure, *sb.m.* *Pour le quart d'heure*, now, for the present.

quart-d'œil, *sb.m.* Policeman, superintendent of police.

quart-de-tour, *au*, *adv. phrase.* Very quick, in no time. (With reference to a motor car that can be started by turning the crank a quarter of a circle.)

Quartier, *proper name.* The *quartier Latin*. *Il habite le Quartier*, he lives in the Latin Quarter.

quatre, *adj.* 1. *Entre quatt'z yeux*, between you and me and the lamp-post. *Je lui dirai ce que j'en pense, entre quatt'z yeux*, I'll tell him privately my way of thinking.

2. *Se mettre en quatre*, to exert oneself very much. *Il s'est mis en quatre pour nous être agréable*, he did his very utmost to do us a service. *Il se mettrait en quatre pour ses amis*, he would go through fire and water for his friends.

3. *Se tenir à quatre pour ne pas . . .*, to make great efforts not to. . . . *Je me tenais à quatre pour ne pas éclater de rire*, it was as much as I could do to keep from bursting out laughing.

4. *Tiré à quatre épingles*, neat in one's dress, looking as if one had just come out of a bandbox, spick and span.

5. *Être fichu (foutu) comme quatre sous*, to be dressed like a guy; (of things) to be bungled.

quatre cents, *num.adj.* *Faire les quatre cents coups*, to lead a fast life.

quatt'z yeux. See **QUATRE 1**.

quat-z-arts, *sb.m.pl.* *Le bal des quat-z-arts*, a ball given by the students of the *École des Beaux-Arts*, where the four arts of painting, sculpture, engraving, and architecture are taught.

quelque part, *adv.* 1. *Aller quelque part*, to go to the privy.

2. *Donner à quelqu'un un coup de pied quelque part*, to kick somebody's bottom.

3. *Avoir quelqu'un quelque part*, not to care a jot for somebody. *Je l'ai quelque part*, he can go to the deuce for all I care.



quenaupé, *sb.f.* Pipe.

qu'en-dira-t-on, *sb.m.* *Se moquer du qu'en-dira-t-on*, not to care for Mrs. Grundy.

quenotte, *sb.f.* (Child's word.) Tooth, peg(gy).

queue, *sb.f.* 1. *Faire des queues à son mari, à sa femme*, to be unfaithful to one's husband, wife. *Elle te fera des queues*, she'll do you down.

2. *Avec des si, des mais et des queues de lapin!* stock answer to a silly surmise. (*Cp.* if pigs had wings, what lovely birds they'd make!)

3. *Faire des queues de poisson*, (of a motor-cyclist) to develop a speed wobble, (of car) a tail wobble.

queuter, *vb.intr.* (At billiards) To push the ball, make a push-stroke.

qui, *pron.* *Non mais chez qui?* expresses emphatic refusal, contempt, etc. *Il voulait me la faire payer vingt francs; non mais chez qui?* he wanted to charge twenty francs for it; who did he take me for? nothing doing! not this little boy, I am not on! *Payer un verre! non mais chez qui?* stand you a drink? get out! not a bit of it! not much! whatever next? (*Cp. plus souvent; non mais des fois!*)

quibus, *sb.m.* Money, the wherewithal. (*Cp.* AUBER.)

quiconque, *pron.* *Comme pas de quiconque*, like anything (used as an intensive). *Ils ont rouspété comme pas de quiconque*, they kicked up a hell of a row.

quille, *sb.f.* 1. Leg, pin. *Il ne tient pas sur ses quilles*, he is shaky on his pins.

2. *Recevoir quelqu'un comme un chien dans un jeu de quilles*, to receive someone like an intruder, to give someone a chilly welcome.

quinaillerie, *sb.f.* Decorations. *Sortir sa quinaillerie*, to display one's medals and stars. (*Cp.* VAISSELLE.)

quinquets, *sb.m.pl.* Eyes, peepers.

quinte, *sb.f.* *Attraper quinte et quatorze et le point*, to catch syphilis. (In allusion to the game of *piquet* where this is the highest possible score.)

quiqui, *sb.m.* = KIKI.

quoi, *pron.* 1. *Je trouve que j'ai payé un peu cher . . . il m'a entôlé*,

quoi! I think I paid rather dear . . . in short, he did me brown.

2. *De quoi?* expresses defiance and contempt. *Toi, me dégoter!* *Non, mais de quoi?* you, lick me! And how? What with?

R

rab, *sb.m.* Abbr. of RABIOT.

rabiboche, *vb.tr.* To reconcile, make it up between.

rabiot, *sb.m.* 1. Something to the good, into the bargain (esp. what may be left over of wine, brandy, coffee, etc., when military rations have been distributed).

2. Profits on forage, food supplies, etc.

3. Remainder of a term of service in a *Compagnie de discipline*; hence any extra work.

4. Any illicit spoils, graft.

5. Convalescent soldier who performs odd jobs for his fellows in a hospital.

rabioter, *vb.tr.* 1. To get illicit profits, to scrounge.

2. To cut down (the share, etc., of somebody). *J'ai essayé de rabioter quelques sous*, I tried to get a few pence out of it.

raccourcir, *vb.tr.* To behead.

raccroc, *sb.m.* *Faire le raccroc*, (of a prostitute) to entice in a public place, to be on the streets, on the game; hence, to tout (generally).

raccrocher. 1. *vb.tr.* = *faire le raccroc*. See RACCROC.

2. *vb.intr.* To leave off doing anything. *Fini, mon vieux, ce truc-là, je raccroche*, no more of that job, old chap, I give it up, I won't have any more of the bally show.

râclée, *sb.f.* Thrashing, dressing down, hiding.

râclure, *sb.f.* (General term of abuse) Scum. (*Cp.* CHAROGNE, FUMIER.)

rade, *sb.m.* *Faire le rade*, (of prostitute) to be on the beat. (*Cp.* RACCROC.)

radin, *sb.m.* Skinflint. *Un vieux radin*, an old screw.

radiner, *vb.intr.* To come, come back, turn up; to reach camp or billets.

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radis, *sb.m.* 1. *Ne pas avoir un radis*, to be penniless.

2. *Je suis gelé comme un radis*, I'm simply frozen.

raffût, *sb.m.* Noise, scandal. *Faire du raffût*, to kick up a dust.
(Cp. BACCHANAL.)

rafistoler, *vb.tr.* To repair, patch up, vamp up.

ragot, *sb.m.* Gossip, piece of tittle-tattle.

ragougnasse, *sb.f.* Disgusting stew, any bad food.

raide. 1. *adj.* (a) Exorbitant, unreasonable. *Ça c'est raide*, un peu raide, that's too bad, that beats everything, that is a bit thick, stiff, steep.

(b) *Coup raide comme balle*, lightning blow, stinger.

(c) Drunk, tight, well sprung.

(d) Hard up.

(e) *En raconter de raides*, to tell (i) tall stories; (ii) smutty stories.

(f) *Se faire porter raide*, to report sick.

2. *adv.* *Il est raide fou*, he's clean off his head.

raisiné, *sb.m.* Blood. *Faire du raisiné*, to stab somebody.

raison, *sb.f.* *Chercher des raisons à quelqu'un*, to try to pick a quarrel with someone.

raisonner, *vb.intr.* *Raisonner comme un tambour*, to talk at random, to talk nonsense, to be all abroad. (A pun on *raisonner* and *résonner*, to argue and to resound.)

râler, *vb.intr.* To be angry, to fume.

râleur, *euse*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* 1. Bad-tempered, crabby.

2. Stingy person, stingy.

râleux, *euse*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* = RÂLEUR 2.

rallye-paper, *sb.m.* False anglicism corresponding to 'paper-chase.'

ramasser, *vb.tr.* 1. *Ramasser un bouchon, une bûche, une gamelle, une pelle*, to fall, to come a cropper.

2. *Se faire ramasser*. (a) To get nabbed, arrested, copped.

(b) To get a talking to.

(c) To get sneered at.

ramdan, *sb.m.* Noise, row.

rame, *sb.f.* *Ne pas en foutre une rame*, not to do a stroke of work.
Il n'en fout pas une rame, he's an utter slacker.

ramener. 1. *vb.tr.* *La ramener.* (a) To protest, grouse. *Tu parles s'il la ramenait!* he was kicking up a hell of a shindy!

(b) To boast, bounce, swank. *T'as pas besoin de la ramener, tu vaux pas mieux que les autres, you needn't show off, you're no better than your neighbours.*

2. *vb.intr.* (Of a bald man) To comb the hair over the bare places on one's head.

ramer, vb.intr. (Cycling) To ride wearily on with successive lurches, like an exhausted cyclist toiling uphill, to wobble, zig-zag. (*Cp.* GODILLE.)

ramollet, sb.m. and adj. (*Lit.* whose brain is softening.) *Un ramollet, un vieux ramollet,* an old crock, dodderer, old buffer, old fogey.

rampe, sb.f. 1. *Lâcher la rampe,* to die, peg out, kick the bucket. (*Cp.* ARME.)

2. *Tiens bon la rampe!* ironical stock phrase addressed to somebody falling down. (*Lit.* hold on to the banisters.)

ramponneau, sb.m. Blow, shock, punch.

rancard, sb.m. 1. Appointment. 2. Information, tip.

rancarder, se, vb.pr. To get information.

ranger, se, vb.pr. To settle down (after a rackets life).

rapiat, adj. Stingy, close-fisted.

rapin, sb.m. Art student.

raplapla, adj. Weak, exhausted, slack. *Se sentir raplapla,* to lack vim, to feel slack, flat.

rappliquer, vb.intr. To come, come back, turn up (esp. unexpectedly).

rapport à, prep. On account of. *Il n'osait pas le faire rapport à la police,* he dared not do it because of the police. *Tout ça, c'est rapport à ta belle-sœur,* that's all along of your sister-in-law.

raquer, vb.tr. To pay, fork out.

raquin, sb.m. 1. Prostitute.

2. (Old or ugly) hag, drab, ugly woman.

rare, adj. 1. Unexpected, not likely. *C'est rare s'il revient si tôt,* it would be a wonder if he came back so early. *C'est bien rare s'il en voudra,* it's not likely that he'll want it.

2. *Se faire rare,* to keep out of the way. *On ne vous voit plus,*

vous vous faites rare, we don't see you any more, you're quite a stranger.

raser, *vb.tr.* To bore. (*Cp.* BARBER.)

raseur, *sb.m.* Boring fellow, a bore.

rasibus. 1. *adv.* Close. *Couper rasibus*, to cut very short.

2. *interj.* *Il a été malade quinze jours, et puis rasibus!* he was ill for a fortnight and then he snuffed it.

rasoir. 1. *sb.m.* *Pisser des lames de rasoir*, see *PISSER* 1 (*d*).

2. *adj.* Boring. (*Cp.* BARBANT.)

rassembler, *vb.tr.* *Se faire rassembler*, to get reprimanded or punished.

rasta, *sb.m.* = RASTAQUOUÈRE.

rastaquouère, *sb.m.* 1. South American upstart fond of showing off and squandering his money.

2. Any man whose means of living are of dubious origin, an adventurer (foreign or not).

rat. 1. *sb.m.* (*a*) Term of endearment, darling, ducky.

(*b*) *Rat d'hôtel*, hotel thief.

(*c*) *Rat de cave*, excise-man.

(*d*) *Rat d'église*, beggar who frequents churches.

(*e*) *Rat d'opéra*, young ballet girl (still half-fledged).

2. *adj.* Stingy.

rata, *sb.m.* Stew (esp. of poor quality), skilly.

ratatouille, *sb.f.* 1. Stew, poor food, skilly.

2. Thrashing, hiding.

ratatout, *interj.* Jocular expression used by card-players when they play trumps several times running: *Atout, atout, et rata-tout!* trump, trump and trump again!

ratatiner, *vb.tr.* To kill, murder. (*Cp.* REFROIDIR.)

rate, *sb.f.* *Ne pas se fouler la rate*, to take things easy.

ratiboiser, *vb.tr.* To fleece, clean out. *Se faire ratiboiser son argent au jeu*, to lose one's money gambling, to be cleaned out.

ratichon, *sb.m.* Priest, church-going person. (Disparaging.)

ratisser, *v.tr.* = RATIBOISER.

ravageur, *adj.* *Cricri ravageur*, small bustling woman of dark complexion.



ravigoter, *vb.tr.* To strengthen, revive, put new life into. (A corruption of the archaic *ravigorer*.)

rayon, *sb.m.* *C'est mon rayon!* it's my business, my line, I know everything about it, I'm an old hand at it. (From the *rayon*, the department to which a salesman belongs in a shop.)

réac, *sb.m.* and *adj.* (Abbr. of *réactionnaire*) One who is ultra-conservative in politics.

rebecquetant, *e, adj.* Appetizing, encouraging.

rebecqueter, *vb.intr.* To take courage again, to buck up.

rebiffer, *vb.intr.* To do it, to try it again. *Rebiffer au truc*, to have another shot. (*Cp. remettre ça.*)

recaler, *vb.tr.* 1. To put new life into. *Buvez ça pour vous recaler*, drink that off to buck you up.

2. To pluck at an exam. *Se faire recaler*, to get plucked, to fail.

réchauffé, *sb.m.* *C'est du réchauffé*, it's the same old yarn.

rechoper, *vb.tr.* *Rechoper quelqu'un*, to get someone on the hop; to get another smack at someone.

recoller. 1. *vb.tr.* To make it up between.

2. *vb.intr.* *Ça recolle maintenant*, they've made it up again now.

recordman, *sb.m.* (A false anglicism.) Record-holder (in sport).

recta, *adv.* Punctually, exactly, O.K.

redingue, *sb.f.* (= *redingote*) Frock-coat.

redresse, *sb.f.* *A la redresse*, clever, cute, knowing, up to snuff.

refaire, *vb.tr.* To rob, scrounge. *On m'a refait mon porte-monnaie*, my purse has been pinched. *J'ai été refait*, I've been duped, taken in, done brown. *Je suis refait de dix francs*, they've given me ten francs less than my due, I've been done out of ten francs.

refile, *sb.m.* *Aller au refile*. (a) To part with one's money, to fork out, stump up.

(b) To vomit, spew.

refiler, *vb.tr.* To give, to pass off. *On m'a refilé une mauvaise pièce*, they've palmed off a counterfeit coin upon me.

refroidir, *vb.tr.* To kill, murder, to make cold meat of.

refus, *sb.m.* *C'est pas de refus!* popular formula of indirect

acquiescence. *On prend un verre?—C'est pas de refus*, have a drink?—I won't say no, don't mind if I do.

régaler, *vb.tr.* *C'est moi qui régale*, it's my shout, I'll stand the damage.

regardant, *e, adj.* Close-fisted, stingy. *Pas regardant*, liberal.

regarder, *vb.tr.* *Tu m'as pas regardé!* expresses emphatic refusal: what do you take me for! you must be dreaming!

reginglard, *sb.m.* Light wine.

reine-glaude, *sb.f.* Pop. pron. of *reine-claude*, greengage.

relance, *sb.f.* (Cards: poker.) Raise.

relancer, *vb.intr.* (Game of poker.) To bet on one's hand a bigger sum than one's opponent. *Relancer de 100, 200 francs*, to go 100, 200 francs better.

reluquer, *vb.tr.* To keep eyeing, to keep an eye upon, to leer at, to ogle.

rembarrer, *vb.tr.* To set down, rebuff, snub. *Il a essayé de la chahuter mais elle l'a rembarré dans les grands prix*, he tried to mess about with her, but she ticked him off properly, put him in his place.

remettre, *vb.tr.* *Remettre ça*, to have another try, helping, drink, etc. *Est-ce qu'on remet ça?* shall we have another drink? shall we drive another nail? (*Cp.* REPIQUER.)

remiser, *vb.tr.* 1. To check, to take down a peg, to set down, snub. *Il s'est fait remiser*, he was sat upon.
2. To leave, cast off.

rempilé, *sb.m.* A man who has re-engaged for military service, esp. a N.C.O. (See **REMPILER**.)

rempiler, *vb.tr.* To re-engage for military service. (Disparaging.)

renâcler, *vb.intr.* To refuse to do anything. *Renâcler à la besogne*, not to feel up to work, to do a job reluctantly.

renard, *sb.m.* 1. Workman who refuses to strike; rat, scab, blackleg.

2. *Faire, cracher, piquer, un renard*, to vomit, to cat, to shoot the cat.

renarder, *vb.intr.* = *faire un renard*.

renauder, *vb.tr.* To protest, grumble, growl, kick up a dust.

rencard, **rencart**, *sb.m.* = **RANCARD**.



rendez-vous, *sb.m.* *Maison de rendez-vous*, disorderly house (where the women do not live in).

rengaine, *sb.f.* *C'est toujours la même rengaine!* it's the old story! *Quelle rengaine!* we've heard that before! *C'est sa rengaine*, it's his hobby, it's the string he's always harping on.

rengainer, *vb.tr.* and *intr.* *Rengainer (son compliment)*, not to say any more, to shut up. (See COMPLIMENT.)

renifler, *vb.tr.* To guess. (*Lit.* to sniff.)

reniquer, *vb.intr.* = **RENAUDER**. *Il renique*, his monkey is up.

renquiller, *vb.intr.* To go (come) back into.

rentoiler, *se, vb.pr.* To recover one's health, put on flesh again, to pick up.

rentre-dedans, *sb.m.* *Faire du rentre-dedans*, to make amorous overtures (ogling, etc.), to give the glad eye.

rentrer, *vb.intr.* (= **ENTRER**) *Rentrer dans le chou, dans le lard, dedans, à quelqu'un*, to attack, to pitch into, go for, someone.

renversant, *e, adj.* Flabbergasting, stunning.

renverser, *vb.tr.* To astound. *Son impudence me renversa*, his impudence knocked me over.

repêcher, *vb.tr.* *Repêcher quelqu'un*, to get someone out of a mess.

repérer, *vb.tr.* To see, watch, spot. (*Lit.* as an artillery term, to locate a position, etc.) *Il a été repéré comme il emportait deux bouteilles*, he was spotted carrying off two bottles.

repiquer, *vb.tr.* 1. To begin again. *Repiquer au truc*, to have another try, (sometimes) to re-engage for military service. (*Cp.* **REMETTRE**.)

2. *vb.intr.* To recruit one's health, to pick up.

repousser, *vb.intr.* To stink. *Repousser du goulot*, to have a foul breath.

requimpette, *sb.f.* Frock-coat.

requinquer. 1. *vb.tr.* To repair, to put to rights, to smarten up.

2. *vb.pr.* (a) To dress oneself anew, to smarten oneself up, to tog oneself out.

(b) To recover after an illness. *Il s'est bien requinqué*, he's picked up wonderfully.

resquille, *sb.f.* The practice of the **RESQUILLEUR**, *q.v.*

resquiller, *vb.intr.* To manage not to pay (at theatre, in the

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train, etc.), or more generally to shift for oneself without being over scrupulous about the method employed.

resquilleur, *sb.m.* Wangler; gate-crasher, etc.

ressauter, *vb.intr.* To protest vehemently, to kick, to show fight.

ressentir, *s'en*, *vb.pr.* *S'en ressentir pour*, to have a liking for.
Il s'en ressent pour elle, he is gone on her. *Je ne m'en ressens pas pour faire ce travail-là*, I don't feel like, I'm not keen on, doing that kind of job.

resucée, *sb.f.* Something not fresh, musty. *C'est de la resucée, cette histoire-là*, that's stale news, it's a chestnut.

rétaquer, *vb.tr.* To make completely drunk. *Il était rétaqué*, he had as much as he could carry.

retape, *sb.f.* *Faire la retape* = *faire le raccroc*. See **RACCROC**.

retaper, *vb.tr.* 1. To pluck, plough, floor (at an exam).

2. To do up, restore, repair. *Prenez ça, ça vous retapera!* drink that off to pull yourself together. *Se retaper*, to pick up.

retenir, *vb.tr.* 1. *Je te (etc.) retiens!* I'll pay you back!

2. *Je te retiens*, (*lit.* I engage you beforehand,) said ironically to a person who proves inefficient in anything. *C'est comme ça que tu fais les paquets; eh bien, je te retiens!* this is how you pack up things; well you're just the man I want to do it next time; I'll give you a job at it.

retoquer, *vb.tr.* = **RETAPER** 1.

retourner, *vb.tr.* 1. To upset, to give (someone) a shock.

2. *Avoir les bras retournés*, to be lazy.

rêve, *sb.m.* *C'est un rêve!* ironical reply expressing indirect asseveration. *Elle n'est pas malade?—Non, c'est un rêve!* she's not ill?—No, it's just a dream! it's only a rumour!

rez-de-chaussée, *sb.m.* 1. Bottom part of a newspaper page where the *feuilleton* (serial story) is printed.

2. Inside of omnibus.

revolver, *sb.m.* Urinal.

revoyure, *sb.f.* *A la revoyure!* I'll see you again soon, so long!
U.S.: I'll be seeing you.

revue, *sb.f.* 1. *Être de la revue*, to have been unsuccessful, to have been deceived. *Je suis encore de la revue!* done! sold again!

2. *Nous sommes de revue, des gens de revue*, we'll be seeing one another, we shall meet again (*i.e.*, you need not be in a



hurry to pay me at once, (or) you will tell me that another time, etc.).

rhéto, *sb.f.* Abbr. of *rhétorique*, a form in French *lycées* for pupils going up for the *baccalauréat* section A, which includes Greek and Latin. Students preparing for the *École Normale Supérieure* go afterwards into *rhétorique supérieure*, called for short *rhéto sup.*

rhume, *sb.m.* *Prendre quelque chose pour son rhume*, to be punished, talked to, severely defeated, etc.; to get one's gruel.

rhymér, *vb.intr.* To have a meaning, to be relevant, sensible. *A quoi ça rhyme-t-il?* what is the meaning (the use) of it?

ribambelle, *sb.f.* Very great number, tremendous lot. *Il y en avait une ribambelle, des ribambelles*, there were lots, pots, heaps, bags, tons, of them.

ribote, *sb.f.* Drunken bout. *Faire la ribote*, to tipple, to booze. *En ribote*, tipsy, tight.

riboter, *vb.intr.* To tipple, to booze.

riboteur, *sb.m.* Regular tippler.

ribotte, *sb.f.* = **RIBOTE**.

ribouis, *sb.m.* Boot (esp. of poor description), beetle-crusher, trotter-case.

ribouldingue, *sb.f.* Boisterous piece of merriment. *Faire la ribouldingue*, to go on the spree, to be fond of a spree. U.S.: to make whoopee.

ribouler des yeux, *vb.intr.* To dart one's eyes right and left.

riche, *adj.* *Une riche occasion, une riche idée*, a rare occasion, a first-rate idea.

ric-rac, *adv.* Hardly, with difficulty. *Il a été reçu ric-rac*, he passed his exam by the skin of his teeth. *Payer ric-rac*, to give nothing but one's due, without any tip.

ridère, *adj.* Fine, smart of its kind, top-hole, A1, etc. (A popular adaptation of 'rider.' The meaning was suggested by 'gentlemen-riders' in horse-racing, the word 'rider' conveying here a notion of wealth and luxury.)

rien, *adv.* (Antiphrastic) Much, very, very much. *Être rien chic*, to be really great. *On a rien rigolé!* we had no end of fun! *C'est rien cher!* that's very stiff!

- rien-du-tout**, *sb.m.f.* Low, worthless, person. *Un rien-du-tout*, a nonentity, a rotter. *Une rien-du-tout*, a low woman.
- riflard**, *sb.m.* Umbrella, brolly, gamp.
- **rigadin**, *sb.m.* Boot, big boot.
- rigolade**, *sb.f.* Fun, lark, merry-making.
- rigolard**, *e, adj.* 1. Fond of larking, waggish.
2. Very funny, screaming, etc. (*Cp.* BIDONNANT.)
- rigolboche**, *adj.* Very comical, larky.
- rigoler**, *vb.intr.* 1. To laugh, to have some fun.
2. To lead a merry life.
- rigolo**, *ote.* 1. *adj.* (a) Comical, laughable, funny. *Un spectacle rigolo*, a funny sight.
(b) Surprising, amazing, queer (without any suggestion of fun).
2. *sb.m.* (a) Funny fellow, wag.
(b) Revolver.
- rigouillard**, *e, adj.* 1. Very comical, screaming.
2. Fond of fun.
- rincée**, *sb.f.* Dressing down, drubbing, licking.
- rincer**, *vb.tr.* 1. To stand drinks to. *Se faire rincer*, not to pay one's share, to sponge (for drink) on others. *Se rincer la dalle*, to wet one's whistle, to moisten one's clay.
2. *Se rincer l'œil*, to feast one's eyes (usually lustfully).
3. To get all the money from, to clean out (gambling, etc.).
- rincette**, *sb.f.* A glass of liqueur or brandy after coffee.
- rinçure**, *sb.f.* Slops, wash, belly-wash. (Sometimes *de bidet*.)
- ripaton**, *sb.m.* Boot (chiefly of poor description).
- riper**. 1. *vb.tr.* To take, steal. *Il m'a ripé ma galette*, he's cleaned me out.
2. *vb.intr.* To go, be off (quickly). (*Cp.* to rip along, to go at a rare pace. The first meaning has no connexion with the second, and has a dialectal origin.)
- ripopée**, *sb.f.* Wishy-washy stuff.
- riquiqui**, *sb.m.* 1. Little finger.
2. Undersized sort of person.
3. Brandy (of poor quality).
- rire**, *vb.intr.* *Vous me faites rire!* don't say that! you're joking!

Vous avez payé ça deux mille francs? vous me faites rire! you paid two thousand francs for it? nonsense!

Riri, *proper name*. Popular dimin. of *Henri*.

riz-pain-sel, *sb.m.* Soldier or officer employed in the Commissariat.

rogne, *sb.f.* Anger. *Être en rogne*, to be cross, in a paddy.

rogner, *vb.intr.* 1. To be cross, ratty.

2. To grumble, grouse.

rognure, *sb.f.* Prostitute of the lowest class, troll, trollop.

rombière, *sb.f.* Woman, prostitute, bitch.

rompre, *vb.intr.* *Rompez!* away you go! off with you! (From the military order *rompez les rangs!* dismiss!)

ronchonner, *vb.intr.* To grumble, grouse.

ronchonnot, *sb.m.* 1. Grumbling fellow.

2. Old crock (esp. applied to old officers).

rond. 1. *sb.m.* (a) Penny. *N'avoir pas le rond*, to be hard up.

Il n'a pas le rond, he hasn't got a brass farthing.

(b) *Être comme deux ronds de frites, de flan*, see FRITES, FLAN.

2. *adj.* Drunk, tight, etc.

rond-de-cuir, *sb.m.* Anyone who performs clerical or sedentary work, especially a civil servant: pen-pusher, quill-driver, stick-in-the-mud.

rond-de-jambe, *sb.m.* Curtsy. *Faire des ronds-de-jambe*, (ironical) to bow and scrape, to be over-courteous.

rondin, *sb.m.* 1. Woman's breast.

2. Rope of excrement, quaker.

rondouillard, *e, adj.* Short and plump. *Un type rondouillard*, a roly-poly. *Une petite femme rondouillarde*, a plump little part-ridge of a girl.

rondouille, *a.* = RONDOUILLARD.

ronfler, *vb.intr.* *Faire ronfler*, to set going briskly. *Il faudra que ça ronfle!* I'll make things hum a bit! *Ça ronflait, les affaires!* we were doing a roaring trade!

Rosalie, *proper name*. Nick-name of the bayonet. (Cp. CURE-DENTS, FOURCHETTE, TIRE-BOCHES, TOURNE-BOCHE, pig-sticker.)

rosbif, *sb.m.* Englishman. (Cp. froggy, MACARONI, CHOUCROU-TEMANE.)

rossard, *e, sb.m.f. and adj.* Lazy fellow or girl.

A DICTIONARY OF FRENCH SLANG

- rosse.** 1. *sb.f.* (a) Nasty fellow, rotter, beast.
(b) Lazy fellow, sluggard.
2. *adj.* Nasty, ironical. *Être rosse avec quelqu'un*, to be nasty, wicked, to somebody. *Chanson rosse*, satirical song.
- rossée, sb.f.** Thrashing, licking.
- rosser, vb.tr.** To give a thrashing.
- rosserie, sb.f.** 1. Dirty, caddish trick.
2. Act of being ROSSE 2. Mischievous enjoyment of some-one's blunder.
- rossignol, sb.m.** 1. Old stock, unsaleable goods.
2. *Rossignol à glands*, pig.
- roter, vb.tr. and intr.** 1. To belch.
2. To be angry, indignant, extremely surprised. *Il en rotait!* he was flabbergasted, flummoxed. (Sometimes *roter des ronds de chapeau.*) (Cp. BAVER.)
- rôti, sb.m.** *S'endormir sur le rôti*, to be slow over one's work, to ca' canny. *Allons, t'endors pas sur le rôti!* come on, you slacker, get a move on!
- rotin, sb.m.** Penny. *Ne pas avoir un rotin*, to be hard up, not to have a brass farthing.
- roublard, e, sb.m.f. and adj.** Shrewd, knowing fellow. *Il est roublard*, he knows a thing or two, he's up to snuff, there are no flies on him.
- roue, sb.f.** 1. *Graisser le roues*, to have a drink, to get drunk (cabby's expression).
2. *Être à la roue*, to be knowing, to know the ropes.
3. *Roue de derrière*, five-franc piece. (Cp. cart-wheel.)
4. *Roue de devant*, two-franc piece.
- Rouen, proper name.** 1. *Aller à Rouen.* (a) To get ruined.
(b) To miss a sale; also *faire un Rouen*.
(c) (Of actor) To be hooted, to get the bird.
2. *Envoyer quelqu'un à Rouen*, to ruin someone.
- rouflaquette, sb.f.** Lock of hair smoothed down on the temple, love-lock, Newgate knocker. (Cp. ACCROCHE-CŒURS.)
- roulant, e, adj.** Very comical, killing.
- roulante, sb.f.** (= *cuisine roulante*) Army travelling kitchen.
- rouler.** 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To deceive, cheat, take in. *Je me suis fait rouler*, I've been done, diddled, done in the eye.



(b) To beat, lick.

(c) *Se les rouler*, not to work at all.

(d) *Rouler sa bosse*, to rove, to knock about a great deal.

(e) To throw the dice, U.S.: to roll the bones. *C'est moi qui roule*, it's my throw.

2. *vb.pr.* To rock with laughter. (*Cp.* *SE BIDONNER*, *SE BOYAUTER*.)

roulette, *sb.f.* 1. *Comme sur des roulettes*, as right as a trivet, first-rate, like one o'clock.

2. *Être à la roulette*, to be up to snuff.

roulure, *sb.f.* Low prostitute, drab, strumpet.

roupie, *sb.f.* 1. Snot.

2. *C'est de la roupie*, it is ugly, worthless of its kind, shoddy, rotten, a dud. (One sometimes says jocularly, *de la roupie de singe*, *de sansonnet*, same meaning.) *C'est pas de la roupie*, it's not so dusty.

3. *Une vieille roupie*, an old, ugly, crabby, woman.

roupiller, *vb.intr.* To sleep.

roupillon, *sb.m.* Sleep. *Piquer un roupillon*, to take a nap, to have forty winks.

roupillonner, *v.tr.* = *ROUPILLER*.

rouquin, e, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Red-haired person, 'ginger,' 'carrots.'

rouscailler, *vb.intr.* To protest. (*Cp.* *ROUSPÉTER*.)

rouspétance, *sb.f.* Resistance, opposition. *Faire de la rouspétance*, to be refractory, to kick, to cut up rough.

rouspéter, *vb.intr.* To resist, to show fight, to grumble. *Ne pas rouspéter*, to be docile, disciplined, not to grouse. *Rouspéter comme un voleur*, to kick like the deuce.

rouspéteur, euse, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* One who shows fight, cuts up rough, grouser.

rousse, *sb.f.* 1. Police, coppers.

2. = *ROUSPÉTANCE*.

rousser, *vb.intr.* = *ROUSPÉTER*.

roussin, *sb.m.* Policeman, police-spy, tec.

rousti, e, *adj.* Lost. *Je suis rousti*, it is all up with me. (*Cp.* *FLAMBÉ*, *FRIT*.)

roustissure, *sb.f.* Anything worthless of its kind, rubbish, trash.

royal cambouis. See CAMBOUIS.

royalement, adv. *S'en ficher (fiche, foutre) royalement*, not to care a damn for it.

rude, adj. First-rate of its kind. *On a fait un rude gueuleton*, we had a rattling good spread. *C'est un rude serin*, he is a bally fool. *Une rude gaffe*, a champion blunder.

rudement, adv. Very. *Un dîner rudement bon*, a rattling good dinner. *Je me suis rudement amusé*, I had a jolly good time.

rue, sb.f. *Ça fera la rue (Michel)*, that will be all right, that will suit my book.

rupin, e, sb.m.f. and adj. (Of things) Fine, A1. (Of persons) Rich, swell. *Les rupins*, the nobles. *Un rupin*, a toff.

rupinskoff, e, adj. Fanciful derivation from RUPIN.

russe, adj. *Chaussettes russes*, bandages of linen sometimes used by soldiers to bind their feet with. *Porter des chaussettes russes* usually means simply not to wear any socks at all.

S

sable, sb.m. *Être sur le sable*, to be hard up.

sabot, sb.m. Inefficient workman, bungler.

sabotage, sb.m. Action of SABOTER 1, 2.

saboter, vb.tr. 1. To bungle, botch, muck.

2. To damage (plant, etc.; esp. of workmen on strike).

sabouler, vb.tr. (= *blackbouler*. Very likely a hybrid from *blackbouler* and *saboter*.) *S'il se représente, nous le saboulerons*, if he presents himself again (at the elections) we'll contrive to keep him out.

sac, sb.m. 1. A thousand francs.

2. *Avoir le sac, être au sac*, to be well off, to have the dubs.

(Cp. *avoir le MAGOT*.)

3. *Faire son sac*, to make one's pile.

4. *Sac à viande*, flea-bag.

5. Silly fellow. *Gros sac!* bally fool!

6. *Fichu comme mon sac*, (a) badly, clumsily, done (work); (b) dressed like a guy.

7. *Avoir son sac*, to be drunk, tight, etc.

8. *Sac à malices*. (a) Bag of tricks. (b) A cute one, a trickster.
 9. *Sac d'os*, very skinny person, a scrag.
 10. *Sac à charbon*, priest (from their black frock. *Cp.* black-cattle, black-coal, black-fly.)
 11. *Cracher (éternuer) dans le sac*, to be guillotined. (From the bag of sawdust used to soak up the blood.)
 12. *Vider son sac*, to say everything one knows about something, to have it out with somebody.
 13. *Mettez ça dans votre sac!* put that in your pipe and smoke it!
- sacquage**, *sb.m.* Discharging by an employer, sacking, the sack.
- sacquer**, *vb.tr.* To discharge (someone) from a situation; to give (someone) the sack, the boot; to fire, to sack (someone).
- sacré**, *adj.* *Sacré temps!* rotten weather! *Sacré idiot!* bally idiot! *Une sacrée veine*, jolly good luck.
- sacrebleu**, *interj.* Expresses surprise, anger, etc.: by gad! damn it! (*Cp.* SACRISTI.)
- sacristi**, *interj.* By Jove! how provoking! dear me! damn it!
- sagouin**, *sb.m.* Dirty fellow, rotter, skunk.
- saindoux**, *sb.m.* *Mil.*: Corporal.
- sainte nitouche**, *sb.f.* Affectedly prudish person. *Elle a l'air d'une sainte nitouche*, she looks as if butter would not melt in her mouth. (*Lit. Sainte qui n'y touche pas*, who is quite artless.)
- Sainte-Touche**, *sb.f.* (From *toucher* = to be paid.) Pay-day. (Fanciful formation analogous to the feast of Saint Partridge, the first day of the shooting season.)
- Saint-Frusquin**, *sb.m.* All one's property. *Il a mangé tout son Saint-Frusquin*, he blued in everything he'd got.
- Saint-Glinglin**, *sb.f.* *Jusqu'à la Saint-Glinglin*, world without end. *A la Saint-Glinglin*, after a very long time, to-morrow come never.
- Saint-Jean**, *sb.f.* *C'est de la Saint Jean*, it's worth nothing, no great shakes.
- Saint-Lago**, *proper name.* (= *Saint-Lazare*) Prison where prostitutes are sent.
- Saint-Lundi**, *sb.f.* *Faire la Saint-Lundi*, not to work on Mondays, to take Monday off. (*Cp.* old slang, Saint Monday.)

salade, *sb.f.* 1. Confusion, mixture, hotch-potch. *Quelle salade!* what a mess!

2. *Panier à salade*, Black-Maria.

3. *Vendre sa salade*, to work according to one's trade.

4. Talking to. *Il m'a passé une salade*, he rowed me up and down.

5. *C'est des salades*, it's empty talk, false stories, all rot, all bunk.

salaud. 1. *sb.m.* (a) Dirty fellow, rotter.

(b) (Also used playfully.) *Mon vieux salaud, t'as fait du joli!* you old ruffian, you've made a nice mess of things!

2. *adj.* Mean, low, underhand. *Ça c'est salaud! c'est un coup salaud!* it's a dirty trick!

sale, *adj.* 1. Bad, ugly, worthless, etc., of its kind. *Un sale temps*, beastly weather. *Un sale type*, a rotter, a bad egg. *Une sale gueule*, an uncongenial face, an ugly phiz. *Un sale coup*, a low, underhand trick, a bad job. *C'est un sale coup (pour la fanfare)!* that's rotten luck! *Ça n'a rien de sale*, antiphrastic formula meaning 'it is very good of its kind.' *On a fait un gueuleton qui n'avait rien de sale*, we had a first-class blow-out. *C'est une même qui n'a rien de sale*, she's a bit of all right. (Cp. it's not so dusty.)

2. *Faire une sale gueule*, to look worried, uneasy, frightened; to pull a long face.

3. *Avoir le nez sale*, to be drunk, tight.

salé, *sb.m.* Baby, child, kid. *Un petit salé*, a brat.

salement, *adv.* Much, very much. *Salement ennuyé, difficile, etc.*, exceedingly worried, difficult, etc. *J'ai eu salement du mal pour y arriver*, I had no end of trouble to manage it.

saler, *vb.tr.* To ask an extravagant price, to overcharge. *Ils nous ont salés!* it's a bit stiff, we had to pay through the nose, they soaked us properly.

salières, *sb.f.* Salt-cellars (above the collar-bones).

saligaud, *sb.m.* Dirty fellow (*lit.* and *fig.*).

salingue. 1. *sb.f.* Dirty fellow, rotter. Used as a term of abuse. *Va donc, eh, salingue!* get away with you, you hound!

2. *adj.* Filthy.

salonnard, *sb.m.* One whose chief activity lies in haunting fashionable or influential *salons*.



salopard, *sb.m.* Mean fellow, rotter, skunk.

salope, *sb.f.* 1. Properly 'strumpet,' but now chiefly used as general term of abuse.

2. Applied by criminals to those who inform the police.

saloper, *vb.tr.* To bungle (a job). *C'est salopé*, it's botched work.

saloperie, *sb.f.* 1. Worthless thing. *C'est de la saloperie*, it's rubbish, trash.

2. Dirty, smutty thing; dirty talk, smut.

3. Dirty trick. *Il m'a fait une saloperie*, he played a dirty trick on me.

4. Low, filthy person. *Une vieille saloperie*, a filthy old slut.

salopiau, *sb.m.*, **salopin**, *sb.m.* = SALIGAUD.

sanfiliste, *sb.m.f.* One who is interested in wireless. (From T.S.F., *télégraphie sans fil*.)

sang, *sb.m.* 1. *Se manger, se tourner, se dévorer, se miner, les sangs*, to fret oneself to death, to worry oneself sick. *Se faire du mauvais sang*, to worry.

2. *Bon sang!* by gad! etc.

sanger, *vb.tr.* A popular pronunciation of *changer* often met with.

sangsue, *sb.f.* (*Lit.* leech.) Money-grabber, blood-sucker.

santé, *sb.f.* (*En*) *avoir une santé*, to be silly, cheeky, plucky. 1. *Tu travailles deux heures de plus, t'en as une santé!* you work two extra hours, what a fool you are!

2. *Vous payez ça cent francs, vous en avez une santé!* pay you a hundred francs for it, what cheek! you've got a nerve!

3. *Sortir par un temps pareil, quelle santé!* you out in such weather, you don't lack pluck!

saperlipopette, *interj.* By Jove, dash it, etc. (*Cp.* SAPRISTI.)

saperlotte, *interj.* = SAPRISTI.

sapin, *sb.m.* 1. Cab, growler.

2. *Sentir le sapin*, to be an omen of death. (*Esp.* in this sentence, jocularly uttered when someone is coughing: *Ça sent le sapin, voilà une toux qui sent le sapin!* you won't live long if you cough like that, that's a churchyard cough. *Lit.* it smells of the fir-tree, the wood of which is commonly used to make coffins.)

saprelotte, *interj.* = SACRISTI.

sapristi, *interj.* = SACRISTI.



sardine, *sb.f.* N.C.O.'s stripe.

sarrasin, *sb.m.* (Printer's slang) Workman not affiliated to the trade union.

satané, e, *adj.* Confounded, cursed. (A mild substitute for SACRÉ.)

sauce, *sb.f.* *Être dans la sauce*, to be in a fix, in the soup.

saucée, *sb.f.* 1. Shower. *Attraper une saucée*, to get wet in the rain, to get drenched.

2. Wiggling, blowing up.

saucer, *vb.tr.* 1. To drench. *Se faire saucer*, to get drenched.

2. To give (someone) beans. *Se faire saucer*, to get a wiggling.

saucisse, *sb.f.* 1. Silly, clumsy fellow, noodle.

2. Observation balloon, sausage.

3. *Rouler des saucisses*, to slip rolled-up tongue into another's (lover's) mouth. (From the sausage-like shape given to the tongue.)

4. Trench mortar shell.

saucisson, *sb.m.* Silly, clumsy fellow. (Sometimes *à pattes*.)

sauter, *vb.tr.* To catch, collar. *Il s'est fait sauter*, he got nabbed.

sauteur, euse, *sb.m.f.* A fickle, boasting, unreliable, person, a bounder.

sauver, se, *vb.pr.* 1. To go, to be off (without any implication of flight). *Allons, maintenant il faut que je me sauve*, well, now I must be off, run away and leave you.

2. (Racing) To run away from the other racers by putting a spurt on. (*Cp. s'ENFUIR*.)

savate, *sb.f.* Inefficient, worthless fellow. *Travailler comme une savate*, to bungler, make a botch of, a job; to be a bungler.

savoir, *vb.tr.* 1. *Ne vouloir rien savoir*, not to be willing to do. *Je lui ai commandé de le faire mais il ne veut rien savoir*, I ordered him to do it, but he has set his mind against it, he just won't.

2. *Elle pleurait tout ce qu'elle savait*, she was crying most bitterly, she was having her cry out. *Il rouspète tout ce qu'il sait*, he kicks like the deuce, all he knows.

3. *Tout ce que je sais*, adverbial phrase used with the meaning of 'at any rate,' 'anyhow.' *Est-ce qu'il est français ou anglais?* — *Il n'est peut-être pas anglais mais tout ce que je sais c'est qu'il est étranger*, is he French or English?—He mayn't be English, but anyway he's a foreigner.



savon, *sb.m.* Scolding. *Donner, recevoir, un savon*, to give, get, a talking to, a wiggling.

savonner, *vb.tr.* (Sometimes *savonner la tête à (quelqu'un)*.) To scold, haul over the coals, to give (someone) beans.

scène, *sb.f.* *Faire une scène à quelqu'un*, to haul somebody over the coals. (Usually with the implication of intimacy. One would hardly *faire une scène* to a casual stranger met in the street.) *Il me fait des scènes épouvantables*, he carries on at me something dreadful.

schlasse, *adj.* Drunk, boozed, tight.

schlinguer, *vb.intr.* To stink, to hum.

schlipoter, *vb.intr.* = SCHLINGUER.

schloff, *sb.m.* Bed. *Aller au schloff*, to go to bed. *Faire schloff*, to sleep.

schnaps, *sb.m.* Spirits, brandy.

schnick, *sb.m.* Spirits, brandy. *Un petit verre de schnick*, a short drink, something short.

Schnock, du, *proper name*. Fanciful ironical nickname given to any man. *Dis-donc, du Schnock!* I say, fathead!

schproum, *sb.m.* *Faire du schproum*, to kick up a row.

sciant, e, *adj.* (a) Boring, wearisome. (b) Untoward, a nuisance.

scie, *sb.f.* 1. Bore, worry, nuisance. *Quelle scie!* botheration! *Monter une scie à quelqu'un*, to mystify someone, to pull someone's leg (esp. by repeating the same joke over and over again).

2. So-called comic song with an idiotic refrain always the same.

scier, *vb.tr.* *Scier le dos à quelqu'un*, to bore someone.

scribouillard, *sb.m.* Pen-pusher, quill-driver. Pejorative term, chiefly applied in the army to a clerk (from *scribe* and *scribouiller*).

scrongneugneu, *interj.* representing *sacré nom de Dieu* as pronounced by some officers. Used adjectively to denote a rough kind of officer. *Un officier très scrongneugneu* = *une vieille culotte de peau (q.v.)*.

seau, *sb.m.* *Être dans le seau*, to be lost, in a fix.

Sébastos, *proper name*. Abbreviation of *Sébastopol*. *Le Sébastos*, the *Boulevard Sébastopol* (in Paris).

- sec**, *adj.* 1. *L'avoir sec.* (a) To be thirsty, to need a wet, to gargle.
 (b) To be cross, ratty.
 2. (Cards) *Avoir le manillon sec*, to have the ace bare in a suit.
 3. *Boire un vermouth sec*, to drink a glass of vermouth neat, short, U.S.: straight.
 4. *Partie sèche*, one game (without revenge). *Jouer une partie en cinq sec*, to have one quick game (of *écarté*). Hence: *En cinq sec*, in a jiffy.
 5. *Être à sec*, to be hard up, stony, stony broke.
 6. *Être sec*, not to have been duly *arrosé* (see *ARROSER*). A stock joke: *tu as un chic vélo, mais il a l'air bien sec*, you've got a nice bike, you ought to (stand a drink to) christen it.
- sèche**, *sb.f.* 1. Cigarette. *Griller une sèche*, to smoke a cigarette, to put on a fag.
 2. *Piquer une sèche*, to fail to answer a question in an examination, to be stumped by a question.
- sécher**. 1. *vb.tr.* *Sécher un cours*, to cut a lecture.
 2. *vb.intr.* To fail to answer a question in an examination, to be stumped, floored.
- sécot**, *sb.m.* *Un petit sécot*, a lean little fellow.
- secouée**, *sb.f.* Great quantity. *Il y en avait une secouée*, there were pots, bags, tons, of them.
- secousse**, *sb.f.* *Ne pas en foutre une secousse*, not to do a stroke, a tap, of work.
- semer**, *vb.tr.* To get rid of (intruder, etc.). *Il me cramponnait, mais je l'ai semé en route*, he stuck to me like a bur, but I managed to shed him on the way.
- sent-bon**, **sentibon**, *sb.m.* Perfume. *Se mettre du sent-bon*, to perfume oneself. (From *ça sent-il bon!* how nice it smells!)
- sentinelle**, *sb.f.* Ball of excrement, turd. *Déposer une sentinelle à la porte de quelqu'un*, to leave, to drop, a card on someone's doorstep.
- sentir**, **s'en**, *vb.pr.* *S'en sentir pour quelque chose*, to be keen on something. *Je ne m'en sens pas pour le boulot aujourd'hui*, I don't feel like working to-day.
- sentir mauvais**, *vb.intr.* To look suspicious, dangerous, etc.
- sergot**, *sb.m.* (= *sergent de ville*) Policeman, cop.



serin, *sb.m.* Silly fellow, ninny, noodle. *Grand serin, va!* you great booby!

seringue, *sb.f.* 1. Trombone.

2. Rifle, bundook.

3. *Chanter comme une seringue*, to sing badly, with a grating voice, out of tune.

seringuinos, *sb.m.* (Final *s* sounded.) A mild form of **SERIN**.

serpent-à-lunettes, *sb.m.* (Man wearing spectacles) Goggles, four-eyes.

serrer, *vb.tr.* *Serrer la pince, la cuiller, les fesses, la vis*, see **PINGE**, **CUILLER**, **FESSE**, **VIS**.

servatoires, *sb.f.pl.* *Les petites servatoires*, the girl-students at the *Conservatoire de musique* in Paris.

service. 1. *sb.m.* (*Mil.*) *Faire du service*, to be over-zealous.

2. *adj.* *Être service*, same meaning as preceding.

sézigue, *pron.* He, his nibs. (*Cp.* **MÉZIGUE**.)

si, *adv.* *Si il rognait!* you should have seen how ratty he was! *Si ils les mettaient!* they were hopping it, they were!

sibiche, *sb.f.* Cigarette.

sidérer, *vb.tr.* To confound, silence, stagger. *Quand je l'ai vu, il m'a sidéré*, the sight of him simply stifled me. *Ça m'a sidéré*, I was struck all of a heap, it took my breath away, I was struck dumb.

sidi, *sb.m.* Man, fellow, bloke (rather contemptuous). *Les sidis qui étaient embusqués à l'arrière*, the beggars who had soft jobs at the rear.

siffler, *vb.tr.* To drink off, lump down.

sifflet, *sb.m.* *Couper le sifflet à quelqu'un.* 1. To give someone his quietus, to cut someone's throat.

2. To leave someone dumb (with astonishment, etc.). *Ça lui a coupé le sifflet*, that was a stumper for him.

sig, **sigue**, *sb.m.* Twenty-franc piece.

singe, *sb.m.* 1. Master, person in authority, boss.

2. Preserved meat, *Mil.*: bully beef. (*Cp.* 'pickled monkey,' nondescript flesh served as food by the Germans to prisoners of war.)

3. *Payer quelqu'un en monnaie de singe*, to let someone whistle for his money.

4. *Ça n'est pas aux vieux singes qu'on apprend à faire des grimaces*, you can't teach your grandmother to suck eggs, you can't fool an old bird like me, I'm no chicken, I've cut my eye-teeth.

siouplé. Popular pronunciation of *s'il vous plaît*.

si que, *conj.* *Si qu'on irait faire un petit tour*, suppose we take a little trip.

sirop, *sb.m.* 1. *Avoir un coup de sirop*, to be drunk, sprung, etc.

2. *Sirop de grenouille*, Adam's ale, fish-broth, i.e. water.

siroter, *vb.tr.* 1. To sip.

2. To booze.

six-quatre-deux. *Faire quelque chose à la six-quatre-deux*, to botch, to bungle, a job, to do something anyhow.

smala, *sb.f.* Family, crowd of people (esp. as an impediment), tribe, clamjamphrie.

smart, *adj.* Fashionable, chic, swanky.

smoking, *sb.m.* A supposed anglicism for dinner-jacket.

socialo, *sb.m.* Socialist.

sœur, *sb.f.* 1. *Et ta sœur?* expression of contempt, irony; answer to an unreasonable request; next, please! don't you wish you may get it! how's your poor feet? and what next? This ironical stock retort seems to be derived from a popular song (1864), the beginning of which was: *Et ta sœur est-elle heureuse?*

2. *Les deux sœurs*, the buttocks. (Cp. JUMELLES.)

soif, *sb.f.* 1. *Jusqu'à plus soif*, world without end.

2. *Il fait soif*, it's hot, it's a thirsty job.

soiffard, *e*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Soaker, boozier.

soiffeur, *sb.m.* = SOIFFARD.

soigné, *adj.* First-rate of its kind. *Il a reçu une volée et quelque chose de soigné!* he received a rare thrashing.

soigner, *se*, *vb.pr.* To do oneself well.

soiriste, *sb.m.* Dramatic and musical critic.

sol, *sb.m.* *Piquer un sol* = *piquer un soleil*. See SOLEIL 2.

soldat, *sb.m.* 1. *Jouer au petit soldat*, to brag, swagger. *Il essayai de jouer au petit soldat avec moi*, he tried to come the old soldier over me. (Cp. ZOUAVE.)

2. *Fille à soldats*, low prostitute, barrack-hack.



soleil, *sb.m.* 1. *Avoir un coup de soleil*, to be drunk.

2. *Piquer un soleil*, to blush.

3. *Faire le grand soleil*. (a) To have one's horse turn a somersault.

(b) To do the grand circle on the horizontal bar.

son, *sb.m.* *Cracher dans le son* = *cracher dans le sac*. See SAC II.

sonner, *vb.tr.* 1. To kill or stun by striking the head on the pavement.

2. (Fig.) *Se faire sonner*. (a) To get fleeced (in a shop, etc.).

(b) To be given very hard questions at an exam. *On l'a sonné en math*, they asked him regular posers in mathematics.

sonneur, *sb.m.* *Ronfler comme un sonneur*, to snore like a pig in the sun.

Sophie, *proper name*. 1. *Faire sa Sophie*, to make a fuss, to be fastidious, particular, affected; to come the saint.

2. *Sophie-tourne-l'œil*, death.

sorbonne, *sb.f.* Head. (Cp. knowledge-box.)

sorcier, *adj.* *C'est pas sorcier*, it is not hard to do or understand. (Always used negatively.)

sortir, *vb.tr.* 1. Say. *Sortir un drôle de boniment*, to come out with a queer argument.

2. To dismiss, turn out. *Il m'a sorti en vitesse*, he kicked me out double quick.

sou, *sb.m.* 1. *Sans le sou*, penniless, hard up. *Gagner des sous*, to make money.

2. *Fichu comme quatre sous*, (a) (job) done anyhow, bungled; (b) dressed like a guy.

soufrante, *sb.f.* Match (light) (sulphur-tipped).

soulager, *vb.tr.* 1. To murder.

2. *Soulager quelqu'un de son porte-monnaie*, to ease, relieve, somebody of his purse.

soûlard, *e*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Drunkard, boozier, tippler.

soûlardise, *sb.f.* Drunkenness.

soûlerie, *sb.f.* Drunkenness, drinking bout.

soûlographie, *sb.f.* Drunkenness, drinking bout, booze.

soûlot, *e*, *sb.f.m.* and *adj.* = SOÛLARD.

soupe, *sb.f.* *Gros plein de soupe*, a big, fat, flabby fellow, a great lump of a man.



soupe-au-lait, *sb.f.* Hot-tempered person. *Quelle soupe-au-lait!* just see how he's flaring up! (From the quick boiling-up of milk-soup. *Cp.* 'to boil over like a pan of milk.')

souper, *vb.intr.* *En avoir soupe*, to be fed up with it.

sourire, *sb.m.* *Avoir le sourire*, to look pleased, cheerful, to keep in good spirits.

souris, *sb.f.* (From *rat d'hôtel*.) *Souris d'hôtel*, female hotel thief.

sous-off, *sb.m.* N.C.O.

sous-pied, *sb.m.* = **PIED** 3.

souvent, *adv.* *Plus souvent!* expresses emphatic refusal: not likely! I'm not having any! not much! I don't think! no fear! *Plus souvent que je le ferais!* catch me doing anything of the kind!

sous-ventrière, *sb.f.* *S'en faire péter la sous-ventrière*, to eat one's fill, to blow one's hide out. (*Lit.* to eat till one's belly-band snaps.) Also used *fig.* to over-indulge in anything.

spéciales, *sb.f.pl.* Abbr. of *Mathématiques spéciales*, the form for students going up for *Polytechnique* and *Centrale* schools. *Être (entrer) en spéciales*.

sténo, *sb.m.f.* Abbr. of *sténographie* and *sténographe*, shorthand and shorthand writer. *Un (une) sténo-dactylo*, shorthand-typist.

strasse, *sb.f.* (Abbr. of *stration*, itself an abbr. of *administration*.) Schoolboy slang for the headmaster and the school officials as opposed to the teaching staff.

subito, *adv.* At once, suddenly. (Sometimes *subito presto*.)

sucer. 1. *vb.tr.* *Sucer la pomme à quelqu'un*, to kiss somebody.
2. *vb.intr.* To drink, booze.

suçon, *sb.m.* Red spot left on the skin by prolonged kiss.

sucre, *sb.m.* 1. *Je ne suis pas en sucre*, I can go out in the rain without fear of dissolving, I'm not made of salt.

2. *Casser du sucre sur la tête de quelqu'un*, to run somebody down.

3. *Payer le sucre*, to pay expenses, to stand the damage.

suer. 1. *vb.tr.* *En suer une*, to dance a dance.

2. *vb.intr.* *Faire suer*, to bore to death. *Il me fait suer*, he gets on my nerves, I'm fed up with him.

suif, *sb.m.* Talking to. *Recevoir un suif*, to get a wiggling.

suiffard, *sb.m.* and *adj.* Dandy, swell, nut.



suisse, *sb.m.* *Faire suisse*, to drink alone without standing treat.

surface, *sb.f.* See **BOUCHER**.

surin, *sb.m.* Knife.

suriner, *vb.tr.* To kill, murder (by stabbing), to knife.

syndiqué, *p.p.* *Camarade syndiqué*, term of friendship used by workmen without any necessary implication that the person addressed is actually a member of a *syndicat* (trades union).

Dis donc, camarade syndiqué! I say, old boy!

système, *sb.m.* 1. *Le système D*, see **D**.

2. (= *système nerveux*) *Courir, porter, taper, sur le système de quelqu'un*, to get on somebody's nerves.

T

tabac, *sb.m.* 1. *Passer à tabac*, to give someone a thrashing, to put someone through it. *Passage à tabac*, policemen's rough handling of apprehended person, U.S.: third degree.

2. *Il y a du tabac*, there is some complication, difficulty, obstacle, danger, ructions, a rough sea, etc.

3. *Mauvais tabac*, bad business, bad affair.

4. *Ce n'est pas le même tabac*, it is quite a different matter, that's quite a different pair of shoes.

table, *sb.f.* *Se mettre à table*, to inform against one's accomplices, to split, blow the gaff. (*Cp. casser, manger, le morceau.*)

tableau, *sb.m.* 1. *Faire bien dans le tableau* = *faire bien dans le paysage*. (See **PAYSAGE**.)

2. *Vieux tableau*, old woman, old image, old has-been.

3. *Décrocher ses tableaux*, to pick one's nose.

4. *Tableau!* elliptical exclamation meaning 'just imagine what a frightful, astounding or ludicrous picture it was!' *J'ouvre la porte, j'entre; mes deux gaillards avaient disparu. Tableau!* I opened the door, I went in; both my blighters were gone. *Tableau!*

tacot, *sb.m.* Ramshackle motor car.

tâcher, *vb.intr.* *Tu vas tâcher de le faire et en vitesse!* see you do it at once and double quick! (Without any implication of actually trying. One sometimes hears, *faudrait tâcher moyen de . . .*, same meaning.) (*Cp. faudrait voir à.*)

A DICTIONARY OF FRENCH SLANG

taf, *sb.m.* *Avoir le taf*, to be afraid, to have the wind up.

tailler, *vb.tr.* *Tailler une bavette*, to chatter, gossip.

taire, *se*, *vb.pr.* *Tais-toi donc!* indirect and emphatic asseveration or acquiescence. *Il lui a fichu un savon?—Tais-toi donc, il l'a sacqué!* he gave him a blowing up?—More than that, that's nothing, he gave him the sack!

tal, *sb.m.* Bum.

tala, *sb.f.* and *adj.* *Les talas*, church-goers, people siding with the priests. The word, which belongs to the slang of the *École Normale Supérieure*, designates those among the students of the school who *vont à la messe*, whence, by aphaeresis and apocope (*von)t à la (messe)*. From *tala*, *a-tala* and *anti-tala* have been derived, to designate people indifferent or opposed to the R.C. religion.

tambouille, *sb.f.* 1. Cooking. *Faire la tambouille*, to do the cooking.

2. Food, grub, stew.

tambour, *sb.m.* *Raisonner comme un tambour*, see **RAISONNER**.

tampon, *sb.m.* 1. Officer's servant, soldier doing service (unofficially) for another.

2. *Coup de tampon*. (a) Fight, riot. (b) Sudden juncture demanding immediate action.

tamponner, *vb.tr.* To beat, thrash.

tam-tam, *sb.m.* *Faire du tam-tam*. 1. To kick up a row.

2. To make a scandal. *Ça fera un beau tam-tam!* that'll make a fine to do!

tangente, *sb.f.* 1. Professor's attendant at lecture and exams.

2. *Prendre la tangente*, to slip off.

tannée, *sb.f.* Thrashing. *Je lui donnerai une tannée*, I'll tan, dress, his hide for him.

tanner, *vb.tr.* 1. To give a hiding.

2. To bore exceedingly.

tante, *sb.f.* 1. *Chez ma tante*. (a) Up the spout, at my uncle's.

(b) Bawdy-house.

2. (a) Sodomite.

(b) General term of abuse, rotter, filthy dog, etc. *Ils l'ont condamné à mort?—Ah, les tantes!* they've sentenced him to death?—Bloody rotters!

tapage, *sb.m.* Borrowing of money.



tape, *sb.f.* Failure, disappointment, set-back, back-hander, knock. *Quelle tape!* what a sell!

tapé, *e*, *adj.* Daft, balmy, cracked. *J'en suis tapé*, I'm mad about it.

tape-cul, *sb.m.* In the following expression: *faire du tape-cul*, to trot without stirrups.

tapée, *sb.f.* Great quantity. *Il y en avait une tapée, des tapées*, there were bags, buckets, pots, tons, of them.

taper. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) *Taper quelqu'un*, to borrow money from somebody. *Il m'a tapé de cent francs*, he touched me for a hundred francs.

(b) *Taper une lettre*, to typewrite a letter.

2. *vb.pr.* (a) *Tu peux te taper*, you may whistle for it.

(b) *Se taper la tête* (or *la cloche*), to get drunk, to have a blow out.

3. *vb.intr.* (a) *Taper dans l'œil à quelqu'un*, to take somebody's fancy.

(b) To stink, to hum. (*Cp.* **COGNER**.)

(c) *Taper sur les nerfs, le système, l'os*, to bore. *Il me tape sur le système*, he puts my back up, *U.S.*: gets my goat.

(d) *Une auto qui tape du 120*, a motor-car that does 120 kilomètres an hour.

(e) *Taper (dur)*, (of the sun) to be hot. *Ça tape!* it's a baking day!

tapette, *sb.f.* 1. *Avoir une fièvre tapette*, to be a chatterbox, all jaw, to have the gift of the gab.

2. = **TANTE** 2 (a).

tapeur, *euse*, *sb.m.f.* One who is always borrowing money; cadger, sponger.

tapin, *sb.m.* 1. Drummer.

2. *Aller, descendre, sur le tapin*, to walk the streets (prostitute).

tapisserie, *sb.f.* *Faire tapisserie*, to be a wallflower.

taquiner, *vb.tr.* *Taquiner la dame de pique*, to play cards.

tarabuster, *vb.tr.* 1. To plague.

2. To huff, snub.

tardigrade, *sb.m.* Conservative, reactionary person (contemptuous).

tarte. 1. *sb.f.* Slap on the face, warmer.

2. *adj.* Worthless of its kind.

Tartempion, *proper name*. Jocular nickname without definite meaning; thingumbob, what's his name.

tarter, *vb.intr.* See TARTIR.

tartine, *sb.f.* 1. Boot.

2. Long-winded, rambling speech, letter, etc.; screed, rigmarole.

tartir, *vb.intr.* To evacuate the bowels, to bog. *Tu nous fais tartir* = *tu nous fais chier*. See CHIER 1 (a).

tas, *sb.m.* 1. *Un tas, des tas*, a great quantity, plenty, heaps, bags, pots.

2. *Sur le tas*. (a) (Of a prostitute) On the streets. *Faire le tas*, to go on the streets, on the beat.

(b) (Of a workman) *Juger un homme sur le tas*, to form an opinion of a man when he is at his work.

2. *Prendre, boire, une (la) tasse*, to get drowned (or nearly).

3. *Faire boire une tasse*, to give a ducking.

tassé, e, *adj.* First-rate, excellent, complete of its kind. *Un dîner bien tassé*, a plentiful dinner. *Le voyage prend cinq heures bien tassées*, the journey takes five full hours.

tasser. 1. *vb.tr.* To give (thrashing, talking to); in sentences like *qu'est-ce que je lui ai tassé!* I gave him such a thrashing! what a talking-to he got!

2. *vb.pr.* *Ça se tassera*, it will turn out all right. *Tout finit par se tasser*, everything comes all right in the end; it all comes out in the wash.

Tatave, *proper name*. Popular dim. of *Gustave*.

tatillon, onne, *adj.* Over-scrupulous about minute details.

tatouille, *sb.f.* Thrashing, licking.

taule, *sb.f.* 1. Military prison. *Faire de la taule*, to be in prison, in clink.

2. Room, house.

3. House.

taulier, ère, *sb.m.f.* Keeper of a lodging-house or hotel.

taupe, *sb.f.* 1. *Taupe de rempart*, engineer (soldier).

2. Class of students of higher mathematics, class of candidates for the *École Polytechnique*.

3. *Vieille taupe*, term of abuse without any definite meaning; applied to an old woman, old crone, old hag.



4. *Partir pour le royaume des taupes*, to die, to go to kingdom come.

taupin, *sb.m.* Student of higher mathematics (esp. candidate for the *École Polytechnique*. See **TAUPE** 2).

taxi, *sb.m.* Worthless aeroplane.

técéfiste, *sb.m.f.* A member of the *Touring Club de France* (T.C.F.).

teigne, *sb.f.* Nasty, wicked, person. *Une vraie teigne*, a regular shrew.

tenir, *vb.tr.* 1. To have. *Qu'est-ce qu'il tient comme muflée!* he's tight as a drum! *Qu'est-ce qu'il tient comme pif!* what a beak he's got!

2. *En tenir pour*, (a) (persons) to be gone on; (b) (things) to be keen on.

terreur, *sb.f.* Chief of a gang of apaches.

terriner, *sb.f.* Head, face, mug.

têtard, *sb.m.* Stubborn horse.

tête, *sb.f.* 1. *Tête de lettre*, (substitute for *en-tête de lettre*) heading of letter.

2. *Tête d'oreiller*, (substituted for *taie d'oreiller*) pillow-case.

téter, *vb.tr.* and *intr.* To booze.

tétère, *sb.f.* (For *pomme-de-terre*, potato.) Head, nut, mug.

teuf-teuf, *sb.m.* Motor car.

théière, *sb.f.* Head mug, nut.

Thomas, *proper name*. Chamber-pot, stool, jerry. *Aller voir la veuve, la mère, Thomas*, to pay a visit to Mrs. Jones. (Cp. German *Tante Meier*.)

thune, *sb.f.* Five-franc piece.

tiers, *sb.m.* *Se ficher du tiers comme du quart*, not to care a straw about anything.

tiffes, *sb.m.pl.* Hair, thatch.

timbré, e, *adj.* Crazy, cracked, etc.

tinée, *sb.f.* = **TAPÉE**.

tinette, *sb.f.* *Faire une tinette sur*, to slate, to run down.

tiquer, *vb.intr.* To show a slight sign of emotion, interest, etc.
Il n'a pas tiqué devant l'allusion, he never winced under the allusion.

tire-au-flanc, *sb.m.* Shirker, lead-swinger. (Also *tireur au flanc*.)

- tire-boches**, *sb.m.* Bayonet. (*Cp.* pig-sticker.)
- tire-bouchonner**, *se, vb.pr.* To split one's sides with laughter.
- tire-jus**, *sb.m.* Handkerchief, snot-rag, wipe.
- tirelarigot**, *à, adv.* Very much. *S'en donner à tirelarigot*, to have one's fill (of food, drink, etc.), to drink, eat, etc., to one's heart's content.
- tirelire**, *sb.f.* 1. Head, face, mouth. *Il en faisait une tirelire!* you should have seen his face!
2. Stomach, belly, bread-box.
- tirer**. 1. *vb.intr.* *Tirer au flanc*, see FLANG.
2. *vb.pr.* (a) *Ça se tire*, it is nearly finished, it is drawing to an end.
(b) *Ça s'est bien tiré?* how did you get on? *Ça s'est bien tiré (ces vacances, etc.)?* had a good time (on your holidays, etc.)?
(c) *Se tirer des flûtes, pattes, pieds*, to be off, to escape, to make tracks.
3. *vb.tr.* *Tirer de la prison*, to be in prison, to do time. *Tirer quinze jours à l'ombre*, to spend a fortnight in quad. *Six mois à tirer, et on est de la classe!* six months to do now and then I'm out of it!
- tiroir**, *sb.m.* *Avoir un polichinelle dans le tiroir*, to be with child, to have a Jack-in-the-box.
- titi**, *sb.m.* *Titi parisien*, young Parisian rogue, supposed to be waggish and witty.
- toc**, 1. *sb.m.* Anything trashy, gaudy, cheaply splendid. *C'est du toc*, it's faked. *En toc*, brum, brummagem, flashy.
2. *adj.* Worthless, trashy.
- tocante**, *sb.f.* = TOQUANTE.
- tocard**, *e.* 1. *adj.* = TOC 2.
2. *sb.m.* Bad horse. (The reverse of a favourite in a race.) *Jouer au tocard*, to back a horse known to have no chance, a rank outsider.
- toc toc**, *adj.* Crazy, dotty, cracked.
- toiles**, *sb.f.pl.* Sheets. *Se mettre dans les toiles*, to go to bed.
- toiser**, *vb.pr.* (*Lit.* to measure.) *Se faire toiser* = *se faire attiger* (*q.v.*).
- tôle**, *sb.f.* = TAULE.
- tôlier**, *sb.m.* = TAULIER.



tomate, *sb.f.* 1. Head, nut.

2. Stupid fellow, juggins.

3. *Être comme une tomate*, to be flabbergasted, struck all of a heap.

4. A mixture of *absinthe* and *grenadine*, so-called on account of its reddish colour.

5. *Des tomates!* not much! I'm not having any! (*Cp. DATTE.*)

tombé, *adj.* *Coup de pied tombé*, drop-kick (Rugby football).

tomber. 1. *vb.tr.* (a) To knock down, vanquish.

(b) *Tomber de l'eau*, to make water.

2. *vb.pr.* *Se laisser tomber sur*, to steal, pinch. *Il s'est laissé tomber sur mon tabac*, he's scrounged, boned, my tobacco.

3. *vb.intr.* (a) *Laisser tomber*, to leave, abandon, drop, chuck, to leave in the lurch.

(b) *Tomber sur un bec*, see *BEC*.

(c) *Tomber faible*, see *FAIBLE*.

(d) *Tomber dessus*, see *DESSUS* 2.

tombeur, *sb.m.* 1. One who is used to knocking down certain people or things, a dangerous adversary. *Un tombeur de ministres, d'hérésies, etc.*, one who overthrows ministers, refutes heresies, etc.

2. *Tombeur de femmes*, habitual seducer of women.

tonneau, *sb.m.* *Du même tonneau*, of the same kind (without implication of liquid). *C'est du même tonneau*, it's much of a muchness.

tonton, *sb.m.* Uncle, nunkey.

topo, *sb.m.* Conventional subject enlarged upon in a speech, a lecture, etc. *Il nous a sorti son topo habituel sur le désarmement*, he brought out his usual piece about disarmament.

toquade, *sb.f.* Fancy, hobby, fad.

toquante, *sb.f.* Watch, ticker.

toquard, *adj.* and *sb.m.* = *TOCARD*.

toqué, *e*, *adj.* 1. Crazy, cracked, a bit touched.

2. *Toqué d'une femme*, enamoured of, smitten with, a girl.

toquer, *se*, *vb.pr.* *Se toquer de*, to take a fancy to (things), to fall in love with (person), to fall for.

torché, *vb.tr.* To bungle. *C'est torché*, it's badly done, botched, knocked off.

torchon, *sb.m.* 1. Slattern.

2. *Se donner un coup de torchon*, to have a fight, a set-to, a brush, a dust-up.

3. *Mélanger les torchons et les serviettes*, to mix the dish-clouts with the napkins, that is, worthless and valuable things, to compare things or persons of unequal value.

tordant, e, *adj.* Very funny, laughable in the last degree. *Histoire tordante*, killing story, scream. (*Cp.* BIDONNANT.)

tord-boyaux, *sb.m.* Very strong brandy, rot-gut. (*Cp.* CASSE-PATTES.)

tordre, se, *vb.pr.* To split one's sides with laughter. *Vous me faites tordre!* you are talking nonsense!

torgnole, *sb.f.* 1. Blow, slap in the face.

2. Thrashing, walloping.

torsif, *adj.* Very comical, screaming, killing.

tortillard, *sb.m.* Narrow-gauge railway, local train.

tortiller, *vb.intr.* *Il n'y a pas à tortiller.* (a) It's no use shuffling.

(b) There is no denying it. *Il n'y a pas à tortiller, c'est un bon type*, he's a splendid chap and no mistake. (Sometimes *il n'y a pas à tortiller du croupion*, etc., same meaning.)

tortue, *sb.f.* *Mil.*: Hand-grenade.

total, *ellipt. expr.* = *au total*, at last, on the whole, in the upshot. *On a travaillé tant qu'on a pu. Total on n'est pas plus riches qu'avant*, we worked as hard as we could and, as a matter of fact, we are no richer than before.

toto. 1. *sb.m.* Louse, crab.

2. *sb.m.(f. totote)* Term of endearment, darling, ducky.

Totor, *proper name*. Pop. dim. of *Victor*. *Totor, tu t'entêtes et t'as tort*, rhyming and alliterative stock phrase addressed to a stubborn person.

toubib, *sb.m.* *Mil.*: Doctor, medical officer.

touche. 1. *sb.f.* Appearance, look (chiefly disparaging). *Je ne m'y ferais pas, il a une sale touche*, I should not trust him, he has a fishy air.

2. *interj.* *Pas touche!* don't touch it! mustn't touch! (to children).

touiller, *vb.tr. and intr.* To stir up.



- toujours**, *adv.* *Tu peux toujours essayer!* (ironical), you can always try! just have a try! (and you'll find that you cannot do it). *Tu peux toujours crever!* emphatic refusal: go to the devil! you be blown!
- toupet**, *sb.m.* Cheek, sauce. *Il a du toupet!* he has plenty of cheek!
- toupie**, *sb.f.* Ridiculous old woman, old frump.
- tour**, *sb.m.* *Jouer un tour à quelqu'un*, to play a trick upon someone. *Un tour de cochon, un sale tour*, a mean, underhand, trick, a dirty trick.
- tourlourou**, *sb.m.* Familiar name of a soldier (esp. an infantryman and a raw recruit).
- tournant**, *sb.m.* *Le tournant de la gueule*, the jaw. *Donner un pain à quelqu'un sur le tournant de la gueule*, to give someone a blow on the jaw. (*Cp. le coin de la gueule.*)
- tourne-boche**, *sb.m.* Nickname for a bayonet.
- ournée**, *sb.f.* 1. *Payer une tournée*, to stand a round of drinks, drinks all round. *C'est ma tournée!* it's my shout! my round!
2. Thrashing, hiding, walloping.
- tourner**. 1. *vb.intr. Tourner de l'œil.* (a) To die, go west.
(b) To have a fainting fit.
(c) To be sent to a penal regiment in Africa.
2. *vb.tr. and intr.* (a) To take films (cinema). (b) To act in a film.
- tourniquer**, *vb.intr.* To loiter about. *On vous a vu hier tourniquer à la Bourse*, they saw you yesterday mooching about the Stock Exchange.
- tourniquet**, *sb.m.* *Passer au tourniquet*, to be tried by court-martial, to be sent to a penal regiment.
- tourte**, *sb.f. and adj.* Silly person, duffer. *Espèce de tourte!* you donkey!
- tousser**, *vb.intr.* *Ce que je tousse! C'est que je tousse!* expresses emphatic asseveration. *Il est rien salaud, non, c'est-que je tousse!* he is a regular rotter, and no mistake!
- tout**, *pron.* *Comme tout*, very much, like anything. *Joli comme tout*, quite lovely, as pretty as paint.
- toutou**, *sb.m.* Dog, bow-wow. *A la peau de toutou*, bad, worthless, trashy, etc., of its kind. *Des boniments à la peau de toutou*, empty arguments, bosh, tommy rot.

trac, *sb.m.* 1. Nervousness, stage-fright.

2. Fright, funk. *Avoir le trac*, to have the wind up, to funk it, to be funky.

Trafalgar, *proper name*. *Coup de Trafalgar*, disturbance, tumult, catastrophe. *Si le gouvernement ne cède pas, il y aura un coup de Trafalgar*, if the Government does not give in there will be ructions.

train, *sb.m.* 1. *Prendre le train d'onze heures, le train onze*, see ONZE.

2. *Être dans le train*, to be fond of new-fashioned ideas, ways, etc., to be up-to-date.

3. *Faire du train*, to kick up a dust.

4. Buttocks, behind. *Se manier le train*, to look sharp. *Allons, manie (pr. magne)-toi le train!* now, then, get a move on! shake your tail!

traînée, *sb.f.* Prostitute of the lowest kind.

traîne-patte, *sb.m.* Tramp, weary Willy.

traits, *sb.m.pl.* *Faire des traits à son mari, à sa femme*, to be unfaithful to one's husband, wife.

tralala, *sb.m.* 1. *Faire du tralala*, to make a great show.

2. *Être en grand tralala*, to be in full fig, in full tog, dressed up to the nines.

3. *Et tout le tralala*, and all the rest of it, the whole bag of tricks.

tranche, *sb.f.* *S'en payer une tranche de*, to have one's fill of. *Je m'en suis payé une tranche!* I had the time of my life, what fun it was!

transatlantique, *sb.m.* Deck-chair.

trapu, *adj.* Clever, proficient. *C'est un type trapu en math*, he's a stout fellow at mathematics. (*Lit.* sturdy.)

traquer, *vb.intr.* = *avoir le trac*. See TRAC.

trèfle, *sb.m.* Coarse army tobacco.

tremblement, *sb.m.* . . . *et tout le tremblement*, and all the rest of it, all the paraphernalia. *Il a eu la croix de guerre, la légion d'honneur, et tout le tremblement*, he got the V.C., the D.S.O., and the whole bag of tricks.

trempe, *sb.f.*, **trempee**, *sb.f.* Thrashing, hiding, walloping.

trente-et-un, *sb.m.* *Se mettre, être, sur son trente-et-un*, to dress up to the nines, to be in full fig.

trente-six, *num.adj.* 1. A great many. *Je vous ai répété trente-six fois que . . .*, I have told you over and over again that. . .

Voir trente-six chandelles, see CHANDELLE 8.

2. *Tous les trente-six du mois*, once in a blue moon.

trente-sixième, *ord.adj.* *Tomber dans le trente-sixième dessous*, to be reduced to the lowest condition, to be stony broke, in the soup, in a hell of a mess.

trèpe, *sb.m.* People, crowd.

trésor, *sb.m.* Term of endearment. *Mon trésor*, ducky, my precious.

tréteau, *sb.m.* Horse, nag.

tricoter, *vb.intr.* *Tricoter des pincettes*, to run (esp. fast), to leg it, skedaddle.

trifouiller, *vb.tr.* and *intr.* To rummage, throw about in searching.

trimard, *sb.m.* Road, highway. *Être sur le trimard*, to be a tramp.

trimarder, *vb.intr.* To tramp.

trimardeur, *sb.m.* Tramp, U.S.: hobo.

trimbaler, *vb.tr.* To transport, drag, knock about.

trimer, *vb.intr.* To work very hard, drudge, toil.

tringle, *sb.f.* *Se mettre la tringle*, to be obliged to do without, to be deprived of. (*Cp. se mettre la ceinture.*)

tringlot, *sb.m.* Soldier of the *Train des Équipages*, the French A.S.C.

trinquer, *vb.intr.* To suffer, to be punished, injured, etc. *C'est lui qui est coupable et c'est moi qui trinque*, he is guilty and I get the punishment. *Ce bataillon a salement trinqué*, this battalion was badly cut up, caught it badly.

tripatouiller, *vb.tr.* 1. = PATINER.

2. To tamper with, garble, cook (dispatches, news, accounts).

tripette, *sb.f.* *Ne pas valoir tripette*, to be absolutely worthless (persons or things), not worth a louse.

tripotage, *sb.m.* Intrigue, jobbery, fishy speculation.

tripotée, *sb.f.* Dressing down, hiding.

tripoter, *vb.intr.* To share in shady transactions.

triporteur, *sb.m.* (= *tri(cycle)-porteur*) Carrier-tricycle.

trique, *sb.f.* 1. *Sec comme un coup de trique*, very lean, dry as a bone.

2. Leg. *Mettre les triques*, to skedaddle, to hop it. (*Cp.* BOIS 4.)

trognon, *sb.m.* 1. Small-sized girl. *Un joli petit trognon*, a nice little bit of a girl.

2. *Jusqu'au trognon*, to the core, completely, down to the ground.

3. Head, chump.

trombine, *sb.f.* Face, head, mug, nut.

trompette, *sb.f.* = TROMBINE.

tronche, *sb.f.* Head, chump.

trône, *sb.m.* Stool, chamber-pot, throne.

troquet, *sb.m.* (= *mastroquet*) Keeper of a public-house.

trotte, *sb.f.* Walk. *Ça fait une fameuse trotte*, it's a long way off.

trotter, *se, vb.pr.* To make off, to skedaddle.

trottin, *sb.m.* Young apprentice at a dressmaker's or milliner's, chiefly employed in running errands.

trottinant, *sb.m.* Foot, trotter.

trottoir, *sb.m.* *Faire le trottoir*, (of a prostitute) to do the street.

trou, *sb.m.* 1. *Boire comme un trou*, to drink like a fish.

2. *Faire un trou à la lune*, to make off without paying one's debts, to shoot the moon.

3. A hole of a place, a small dismal town.

4. *Trou de balle*, anus, arse-hole.

troubade, *sb.m.* A private.

troufignon, *sb.m.* Anus, bottom.

troufion, *sb.m.* Private, swad, swaddy.

trouillard, *e, sb.m. and adj.* Funky fellow.

trouille, *sb.f.* *Avoir la trouille*, to have the wind up, to be funky.

Ne pas avoir la trouille. (a) To be plucky.

(b) (Ironical) To be cheeky. *Il veut gagner cinquante francs par jour? il n'a pas la trouille!* he wants to earn fifty francs a day? he isn't short of cheek! he's got a nerve!

trouilloter, *vb.intr.* To stink.

troupe, *sb.f.* *Mauvaise (vilaine) troupe*, half-reproving endearment to children. Generally used in the order: *en route, mauvaise troupe!* come along, you young imps!

truc, *sb.m.* 1. Trick. *Connaître un bon truc*, to know a good trick.
Avoir le truc, to know how to do it, to have the hang of it.

2. *Faire le truc*, (prostitute) to go on the streets.

3. *Faire son truc*, *Mil.*: to furbish one's kit.

4. Thingummy, thingumbob, gadget.

5. *Repiquer au truc*, see **REPIQUER**.

truffe, *sb.f.* Idiotic fellow, bumpkin.

trumeau, *sb.f.* Ugly old woman.

truqué, *e*, *adj.* Faked up.

truquer, *vb.tr.* To fake.

tube, *sb.m.* Top hat, topper. *Se mettre en tube*, to put on, wear, a top hat.

tuer, *vb.tr.* To astound. *Ça m'a tué!* I was flummoxed, struck all of a heap.

tuile, *sb.f.* Unlucky event, unexpected nuisance. *Quelle tuile!* what bad luck! botheration!

turbin, *sb.m.* Work.

turbiner, *vb.intr.* To work, toil.

turlupiner, *vb.tr.* To worry, to go against the grain. *Ça me turlupine*, it gets on my nerves.

turlututu, *interj.* Fiddlesticks!

turne, *sb.f.* 1. Ramshackle house, house.

2. Lodgings, digs.

3. Place where one is badly treated.

tutoyer, *vb.tr.* *Se faire tutoyer*, to get slanged, talked to, told off.

tutu, *sb.m.* (Childish language) Posterior, 'botty.'

tuyau, *sb.m.* 1. Advice, information, tip.

2. *Tuyau de poêle*. (a) Top-hat, bell-topper, stove-pipe hat.

(b) Trench mortar.

tuyauter, *vb.tr.* To give a tip to. *Être bien tuyauté*, to have good information, to be in the swim.

type, *sb.m.* Fellow. *Un bon, chic, type*, a splendid chap, a brick.
Un sale type, a bad egg, a rotter. *Quel type!* he's the limit, a caution!

typesse, *sb.f.* Woman, girl.

typo, *sb.m.* (= *typographe*) Compositor.

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U

Ugène, *proper name*. Pop. pron. of *Eugène*.

un, *num.adj.* *Le un* (*deux*, etc.), the first act in a play. *En scène pour le un!* (a) call to the actors to be ready to play their part in the first act. (b) (*fig.*) jocular announcement of the beginning of anything.

une, *num.adj.* *Ne faire ni une ni deux*, not to hesitate, to make no bones about it.

urger, *vb.intr.* *Ça urge*, the matter's urgent.

usine, *sb.f.* *Usine à bachot*, cramming shop.

V

vache. 1. *sb.f.* (a) Policeman. In the expression: *Mort aux vaches!* down with the cops! *Vache à roulettes*, cyclist policeman.

(b) Nasty fellow. *Le patron* (etc.) *est une vache*, the boss (etc.) is a terror, a pig.

(c) (Playfully) *Tiens te voilà, vieille vache!* hullo, here you are, old bean!

(d) *Pleuvoir comme vache qui pisse*, to rain bucketfuls.

2. *adj.* Nasty, wicked. *Il est vache*, he's a terror, *Ça c'est vache!* it's a low trick!

vacherie, *sb.f.* 1. Nasty trick. *Faire une vacherie à quelqu'un*, to play a dirty trick on someone.

2. Bad, tough meat. *S'enfoncer de la vacherie dans la lampe*, to feed on low-grade meat.

va-comme-je-te-pousse. 1. *adverbial expression*. Anyhow, at random, without any care. *Il travaille sans méthode, va-comme-je-te-pousse*, he works unmethodically, in any old way.

2. *sb.m.* *Dans cette maison-là, c'est le pagaille, le va-comme-je-te-pousse*, in that house everything is at sixes and sevens, all anyhow.

vadrouille. 1. *sb.f.* (a) *Faire une vadrouille, la vadrouille, partir en vadrouille*, to go out for a spree, to revel (esp. of a party



carousing in disreputable places), to go on the loose; (also of students) to go about the streets playing all sorts of pranks.

(b) Riotous party of revellers.

(c) Person who indulges in low revelry.

2. *adj.* Fond of revelry, leading a wild life, always on the loose.

vadrouiller. 1. *vb.intr.* (a) To live a wild life, to indulge in revelry, to go on the loose.

(b) (Of a party) To go about the streets in a riotous way, to be out for larks.

2. *vb.pr.* To knock, mooch, muck, about (without implication of revelry).

vadrouilleur, euse, adj. Fond of carousing, of going on the loose.

vaillant, e, adj. In good health, fit. *Je ne me sens pas très vaillant ce matin*, I'm not up to the mark, I feel rather out of sorts, this morning.

vaisselle, sb.f. Decorations. *Il a sorti toute sa vaisselle*, he displayed all his medals and stars.

valoir, vb.tr. 1. *Valoir le coup*, to be worth while. *Le spectacle valait le coup!* it was worth seeing, I can tell you!

2. (*Absol.*) *Ça vaut*, it's good of its kind. *Ils se sont fichu une tripotée. Ça valait!* they had a set-to. It was as good as a play.

vanne, sb.f. Unkind reflexion. *Encaisser les vannes*, not to pay attention (to pretend not to understand any unpleasant hint).

vanner, vb.tr. To exhaust. *Ça me vanne de travailler comme ça*, working like that takes it out of me. *Je suis vanné*, I am dead beat.

vapeur, sb.f. *Retourner la vapeur*, to turn informer, to become a police-spy. (*Cp.* **BASCULER.**)

vaseux, euse, adj. Out of sorts, seedy.

vautour, sb.m. Landlord. (Sometimes used as a nickname.)
M. Vautour, the whole body of landlords, the landlord-class.

vazouiller, vb.intr. To express oneself with difficulty, to sputter, muddle through. (Of any piece of mechanism = to work faultily.)

veau, sb.m. 1. Lout, lump, bounder.

2. Ugly or silly woman.

3. *On dirait du veau*, idiotic stock joke without any definite

meaning, in fashion about 1888. In an operetta played in 1880, a laundry woman, Marceline, eating some lobster, exclaims, "How nice this lobster is! You'd think it was veal."

4. Stubborn horse.

vécé, *sb.m.* Popular adaptation of W.C. (*Cp.* OUATÈRE.)

veinard, *e, adj.* Lucky.

veine. 1. *sb.f.* Luck. *Avoir la veine, de la veine*, to have good luck, to be lucky. *Un coup de veine*, a fluke.

2. *interj.* *Veine!* what luck!

Vel. d'hiv. *proper name.* Abbr. of *Vélodrome d'Hiver*, in Paris.

vélo, *sb.m.* Bike, jigger.

velours, *sb.m.* *Jouer sur le velours*, (of a player who was lucky in previous gambling) to play on velvet; hence, to start any business with previous advantages.

vendre, *vb.tr.* To inform against, betray, give away, split on (someone).

Vénus, *proper name.* *Recevoir un coup de pied de Vénus*, to catch venereal disease.

ver, *sb.m.* 1. *Tuer le ver*, to have an early drink, a pick-me-up in the morning, to take a hair of the dog that bit you.

2. *Tirer les vers du nez à quelqu'un*, to pump someone.

verdure, *sb.f.* Freshness, spirit. *N'avoir plus de verdure*, to be depressed, washed out.

véreux, *euse, adj.* Of questionable honesty, shaky, shady (of persons or business).

vermorel, *sb.m.* German aerial torpedo.

verni, *adj.* Said at cards of a player who never loses: *il est verni!* what a lucky dog! Generally, of one who seems proof against danger: *il n'a jamais été blessé, il est verni*, he was never wounded, he bears a charmed life, he's bullet-proof.

verno, *adj.* = VERNI.

verre, *sb.m.* *C'est réglé comme du verre pilé*, it is absolutely sure, it never misses. (An unaccountable simile.)

vert, *adj.* *En être vert* = *en être bleu*. See BLEU.

verte, *sb.f.* Absinthe. *Prendre la verte*, to drink an absinthe.

vertes, *sb.f.pl.* *Il m'en a dit des vertes et des pas mûres*, he hauled me over the coals, cursed me up and down.

- vesse.** 1. *sb.f.* Noiseless fart. *Partir comme une vesse*, to slip away on the Q.T.
2. *interj.* Be on the look-out, mind your eye!
- vessie,** *sb.f.* *Faire prendre des vessies pour des lanternes*, to make believe what is not true.
- veste,** *sb.f.* *Remporter une veste*, to be unsuccessful, to fail, to be plucked (in an exam, etc.).
- veuf,** *adj.* Often used playfully in the meaning of alone. *Cette semaine je suis veuf*, this week my wife is away.
- veuve,** *sb.f.* *La veuve*, the guillotine. *Épouser la veuve*, to be guillotined. (*Cp.* to marry the widow = to be hanged.)
- viande,** *sb.f.* Human body. *Amène ta viande!* come along, come here! fetch your carcass!
- vice,** *sb.m.* 1. *Avoir du vice*, to be cute, sly, knowing. *Il a du vice!* what cheek!
2. *Avoir du vice pour une femme*, to be gone on a woman.
- vider,** *vb.tr.* To turn out, dismiss. *S'il demande une augmentation le patron le videra*, if he asks for a rise the boss will kick him out.
- vie,** *sb.f.* *Faire la vie.* 1. (Of a man) To lead a riotous life.
2. (Of a woman) To be gay. (*Cp.* NOCE 1.)
- vieille.** 1. *sb.f.* (a) Sometimes substituted for *mon vieux*, without any feminine acceptance. *Comment ça va, ma vieille?* how goes it, old thing?
(b) Mother.
2. *adj.* Substituted for *vieux* before a feminine pejorative with the same intensifying meaning, e.g. *vieille tourte, vieille vache*.
- vieux.** 1. *sb.m.* (a) *Mon vieux*, old chap.
(b) *Le vieux*, the captain.
(c) *Les vieux, mes vieux*, my parents.
2. *adj.* (a) Affixed to a pejorative as an intensifier, *vieux cochon, vieux salaud*, etc., without particular acceptance of old age.
(b) *Se faire vieux*, to be kept waiting a long time. *Je me faisais vieux*, how you kept me kicking my heels, I was worrying myself grey.
- vilain.** 1. *adj.* *Faire vilain*, to look discontented, to be down in the mouth.

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2. *sb.m.* *Faire du vilain*, (of things) to come to a bad end, to go wrong. *Ça commençait à faire du vilain*, things began to look nasty, to take an ugly turn.
- vin**, *sb.m.* *Avoir le vin bon*, to be mild when drunk. *Avoir le vin mauvais*, to be quarrelsome when drunk.
- vinaigre**, *sb.m.* *Du vinaigre!* as quick as you can! (said by girls who want the skipping-rope to be turned faster and faster).
- vinasse**, *sb.f.* Wine (esp. of coarse quality).
- vingt-deux**, *interj.* Signal on the approach of the police (or of anybody else in authority). *Vingt-deux, v'là les flics!* nix, here are the coppers.!
- vioc**, *adj.* (= **VIEUX**) Old. *Quand je serai vioc*, when I am an old buffer.
- viocard**, *adj.* = **VIOC**.
- violon**, *sb.m.* 1. *Au violon*, in the lock-up, in quod.
2. Bed-pan.
- vis**, *sb.f.* *Serrer la vis à quelqu'un*, to enforce strict discipline upon someone.
- viser**, *vb.tr.* To look at, to watch. *Vise donc celui-là!* just have a look at that one!
- visselot**, *sb.m.f.* 1. Sexually depraved person.
2. Knowing blade, a cute one.
- visser**, *vb.tr.* To punish, to put in clink, etc.
- vlan**. 1. *interj.* Expresses noise of a blow. *Vlan dans l'œil!* bang in the eye!
2. *adj.* Stylish, chic. *A la vlan*, swaggeringly.
- voile**, *sb.f.* *Mettre les voiles*, to escape, make off, make tracks.
- voir**. 1. *vb.intr.* *Il faudrait voir à obéir aux ordres!* I'd like you to understand that orders should be obeyed!
2. *adv.* (Expletive) (a) *Regardez voir, voyons voir, écoutez voir*, have a look, let's have a look, just listen a bit.
(b) *Essayez voir*, according to context and tone may imply defiance and have about the force of 'just try and you'll see what's going to happen!' *Ah! vous le ferez tout de même, malgré mes ordres? eh bien, essayez voir!* ah, you'll do it in spite of my orders? well, just have a try and I'll show you the stuff I'm made of. (This *voir* is not the infinitive of the verb, but the old adverb *voir*, Latin *verum*.)



3. *Elle n'a pas vu ce mois-ci*, she has not had her courses this month.

4. *C'est tout vu*, stock reply to the restrictive formula *c'est à voir* ('that remains to be seen'), and meaning 'that's a settled thing, there is no doubt about it.' (Cp. *c'est tout dépendu*. See DÉPENDRE.)

volé, *p.p.* *Il ne l'a pas volé*, serves him right!

voleur, *sb.m.* *Rouspéter comme un voleur*, to resist with the greatest energy, to kick up the very dickens of a dust. (No idea of theft is implied.)

volume, *sb.m.* *Faire du volume*, to play the important personage, to look big, to put on side, chuck one's weight about.

vouate. Popular pronunciation of *ouate*, cotton-wool.

voui. Popular pronunciation of *oui*.

vouloir, *vb.tr.* 1. *Comme il veut!* exclamation of the crowd at horse races to cheer the finish of a winning horse: 'hands down!' 'in a canter!' (Cp. *DOIGT*.)

2. Used as an auxiliary in the future tense. In the sentence, *maintenant que mon chien est attaché il ne veut pas partir*, *veut* is an exact equivalent of the English 'will,' 'now that my dog is tied up he will not run away,' not 'he does not want to run away' as the meaning would be in grammatical French. (Cp. *il ne veut pas pleuvoir*, it will not rain.)

3. *Que voulez-vous? que veux-tu?* this formula is not a query, but has the force of 'it could not be helped.' *Oui, il a été tué à la guerre, que voulez-vous?* yes, he was killed in the war, I have to put up with it, how can one help that? it can't be helped! there you are!

4. *Veux-tu bien te taire!* do stop talking! (Sometimes curtailed to *veux-tu!* as order to stop a child doing some mischief.)

voyoucratie, *sb.f.* 1. Hooligan rule.

2. Riff-raff.

vrai, *adj.* 1. *De vrai = vrai*. *Un diamant de vrai*, a genuine diamond.

2. *Pour de vrai*, not for a joke, in earnest.

vue, *sb.f.* *En mettre, jeter, plein la vue à quelqu'un*, to try to come it over one by bragging, showing off.

W

wallace, *sb.f.* One of the drinking fountains in Paris set up by Sir Richard Wallace.

X

X, *sb.m.* *L'X*, the *École Polytechnique*. *L'argot de l'X*, the slang of the cadets of this school.

Y

Y, *pron.* Usual spelling of *il*, as it is popularly and even colloquially pronounced. *Y faut que j'le fasse*, I must do it. (The normal spelling should be *i*, except when *y* stands for the adverb in *il y a*, sounded *y a*.)

y a pas. Elliptical expression = *il n'y a pas à dire*. *Y a pas, faudra qu'il casque!* it is no use shuffling, shilly-shallying, he'll have to stump up! *Y a pas, c'est un sale temps!* it is beastly weather and no mistake.

yeux, *sb.m.pl.* (plural of *œil*) 1. *N'avoir pas froid aux yeux*, (a) not to have cold feet; (b) not to be short of cheek.

2. *Entre quat'z'yeux*, see QUATRE.

youdi, *sb.m.* Jew, yid, sheeny.

youpin, *e*, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* Jew, sheeny, yid.

youtre, *sb.m.f.* and *adj.* = YOUPIN.

Z

zanzi, **zanzibar**, *sb.m.* A game of dice played in pubs. *Faire un zanzi* to have a game of this.

zèbie. See PEAU 6.

zèbre, *sb.m.* 1. Horse.

2. (= *individu*, *type*) *Il est marant ce zèbre-là!* that blighter is the limit!

zef, *sb.m.* = ZÉPHIRE.

zéphire, zéphyr, *sb.m.* Soldier belonging to a disciplinary company of the BAT D'AF.

zezette, *sb.f.* Small drink, tot, of absinthe.

Zidore, *proper name.* Pop. dim. of Isidore.

zigomar, *sb.m.* Cavalry sword.

zigoteau, *sb.m.* 1. Fellow (pejorative).

2. *Faire le zigoteau*, to boast, brag, show off. *Il ne fait plus le zigoteau maintenant*, now he's come down a peg.

zigouiller, *vb.tr.* 1. To kill, murder. *Ils l'ont zigouillé*, they've done for him, polished him off.

2. To destroy, demolish. *Le régiment a été zigouillé*, the regiment was cut up, cut to pieces.

zigue, *sb.m.* Fellow. *Un bon zigue*, a good chap, a brick.

zinc, *sb.m.* 1. Counter of public-house.

2. The pub itself.

3. Aeroplane, bus.

zingue, *sb.m.* = ZINC.

zone, *sb.f.* Abbr. of *zone militaire*, a belt of ground round Paris where building is not allowed on account of possible military operations, and inhabited by rag-pickers living in huts.

zouave, *sb.m.* 1. *Faire le zouave*, to brag, to swagger, to be in-subordinate. *Faut pas faire le zouave avec moi!* don't you come the heavy with me! *Il ne faisait pas le zouave*, he was singing small.

2. *Première de zouave*, third-class (on the railway).

zouaviller, *vb.intr* = *faire le zouave*. See ZOUAVE 1.

zouzou, *sb.m.* = ZOUAVE.

zut, *interj.* 1. Expresses disappointment, surprise, admiration, emphatic refusal. *Il n'est pas encore rentré? zut! ah, zut alors!* he's not back yet? confound it! damn it! *Il vient encore d'hériter? ah, zut!* he's come into money again? the lucky dog! *Prête-moi encore deux cents balles.—Zut!* lend me another two hundred francs.—Go to blazes! Rats!

2. *Avoir un œil qui dit zut à l'autre*, to squint.

zyeuter, *vb.tr.* To look at, watch. *Zyeutez-moi ça!* just have a squint at that! *Tu m'as pas zyeuté!* = *tu m'a pas regardé!*