

his *beauty-sleep*. I replied that his loss of *beauty-sleep* was rather improving to a man of so high a complexion, &c.—*Blackmore: Lorna Doone.*

**Beavers** (Winchester), originally, leave to go out in the afternoon, when none but prefects were allowed to wear hats. Afterwards the appellation denoted an intermission of half-an-hour in the course of the afternoon on whole school days, when school began at two o'clock. The term is now obsolete. A *beaver* (nautical), is a helmet in general, but particularly that part which lets down to allow of the wearer's drinking.

**Beck, beur** (old cant), a constable. In Dutch slang, *bekuan* means arrested, imprisoned.

The ruffin cly the nab of the Harman *beck*  
If we mawnd Pannam, lap or ruff-peck.  
—*Thomas Dekker.*

**Bed** (thieves' slang), put to *bed* with a shovel, dead and buried.

Played out they lay, it will be said,  
A hundred stretches hence;  
With shovels they were put to *bed*  
A hundred stretches since.  
—*A Hundred Stretches Hence: New York Slang Dictionary.*

**Bedder** (universities), a bedmaker, a species of charwoman now nearly extinct in Oxford, but flourishing at Cambridge.

**Bed-fagot** (common), a contemptuous term for a woman, but more specially applied to a prostitute. A provincialism for a bedfellow.

**Bed filling** (army), lying down after dinner to rest and digest. It is the general rule that the cots or iron bedsteads in soldiers' barrack-rooms shall be constantly kept neat and tidy, palliasses rolled up and bedding evenly folded. But at certain hours, as after dinner, a little relaxation of the rule is allowed.

**Bed-house**, a house of assignation. One where beds and rooms are hired by the hour or half-day, &c. An institution which has spread with incredible rapidity of late years in England and America, since the suppression or gradual disappearance of brothels, so that, according to trustworthy information, where there formerly existed one of the latter, there are now from ten even to twenty of the former. The repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act has given a great impetus to the establishment of *bed-houses*.

**Bedoozle** (American), to confuse, bewilder, the result being that a man is "all abroad," or "flabbergasted."

**Bed-post** (common), in the "twinkling of a *bed-post*," in a moment, as quick as lightning, in a jiffy, or as rapidly as a staff can be twinkled or turned. A more modern expression extensively used is, in the "twinkling of a pike-staff," which explains itself. *Bed-post*, in this case, seems to have replaced *bed-staff*, a wooden pin