

blonde," a glass of ale; "une jaune," a dram of brandy; "une dame blanche," a bottle of white wine; "pivois savonné," white wine; "négresse," bottle of red wine. And with respect to pernicious effects, "breaky leg," strong drink; "eau-de-mort, cassepoitrine, tord-boyaux," rank brandy. The term *blue ruin* must have been coined by sober people, or by repentant drunkards, whilst those otherwise inclined gave it the fond appellation of "white velvet," or "white satin," unconsciously imitated by French dram-drinkers, when, after having tossed off some horrible stuff in an *assommoir*, they fervently ejaculate, "C'est un velours, quoi!"

Blues (common), the Royal Horse Guards; the Bluecoat school; the crews of the 'Varsity boat race—the dark *blues* being the Oxford men, and the light *blues* those from Cambridge; the police force.

Well, what's the row . . .
Or whether this here mobbing, as some
longish heads foretell it,
Will grow to such a riot that the Oxford
blues must quell it?
—*Hood Row at the Oxford Arms.*

(Society), "a fit of the *blues*" means a fit of depression; it is abbreviated from the "*blue devils*," which are supposed to appear to a man suffering from *delirium tremens*.

She had attracted him for a while, but his strong good common sense, as well as

his strong healthy body and robust habits, soon carried him out of the *blues* he had for a while fallen into.—*Lucy Farmer; or, Chronicles of Cardew Manor.*

Blue skin (West Indian), the child of a black woman by a white man. The name of a mulatto, one of the characters of Ainsworth's "Jack Sheppard."

Blue squadron, one of the (East Indian), a person having a cross of the Indian breed.

Blue the screw, to (popular), to spend one's salary.

He buys her gloves and dresses new,
And stands her dinners down at Kew;
In fact on her *blues* all his screw,
Which some day he will sadly rue.
—*The Gaiety Masher: Broadside.*

Bluey (thieves), lead. (Austrian), a bushman's bundle, the outside wrapper of which is generally a blue blanket (Murray).

Bluff, to (American, low), to put down by a bold front, to oppose by "cheek" or effrontery.

I did not care if it took me a week; I was not going to be *bluffed* by them.—*North of England Advertiser.*

German, *blüffen*. The eleventh commandment among thieves in Germany is "Du sollst Dich nicht *verblüffen* lassen"—"Don't let yourself be *bluffed*." Dutch *blafferd*, a snarling fellow; *bluffen*, to bark at. Also Dutch, *verbluffen*, to put out of countenance, to face down.

(Patterers' slang), an excuse, a pretence.