

**Crikey** (popular), an exclamation denoting astonishment, a corruption of Christ.

"Well, I'm blown!" he added. "This here's a free country, and a cove ain't to swear at his own gal, oh, *crikey*."—*Sims: Rogues and Vagabonds*.

**Crimum** (tinker), sheep.

**Crinkum-crankum** (old slang), a woman's private parts.

**Cripple** (popular), a bent sixpence. (Common), an awkward or dull person.

**Crisp** (common), a banknote.

He . . . cashed a cheque for £100 and handed over the *crisp*.—*Modern Society*.

**Croaker** (old slang), a fourpenny piece. (Common), one who takes a desponding view of everything. (Popular), a beggar, a corpse.

Well . . . it won't perhaps send you into hysterics to hear that Dave is as good as a *croaker*.—*J. Greenwood: Almost Lost*.

(Prison), the doctor.

One man who had put his name for the "butcher" or *croaker*, would suddenly find that he had three ounces of bread less to receive and then a scene would ensue.—*Evening News*.

**Croak, to** (thieves), to die, to kill.

**Croakumshire** (old slang). This nickname is said to have been given to Northumberland because of the difficulty people in that county have in pronouncing the letter *r*, which imparts a

somewhat rough tone to the voice.

**Crock** (common), the original meaning is that of a slow, worthless horse, but in society it is also applied figuratively to a slow, foolish, good-for-nothing person, as in the phrase, "that girl is a regular *crock*." In sporting and university language it is also used in reference to a duffer, a lazy bungler.

The delinquents still rowed their blades like giants and nowhere in the boat was a *crock* to be seen.—*Referree*.

With reference to the original meaning of *slow*, worthless horse, *crock* is allied to *creep*, Anglo-Saxon *creopan*, and old High Dutch *kriochan*. But it is curious to note that in German slang *krig* is a horse, and that the German *ross*, a horse, has given the French *rosse*, a slow, good-for-nothing horse; this word being used with the same figurative meaning as *crock*, applied to persons.

**Crockier** (sporting), a spaniel employed in beating underwood for small game.

**Croquets** (Winchester College), the word for cricket. To "get out *croquets*" is to get out with a "duck's egg," that is, without having made any runs. "Small *croquets*" is the name given to a game played with an india-rubber ball and a plain deal bat about two inches broad.