

melodies of England, and of which the well-known chorus was—

And he who will this toast deny  
Down among the *dead men* let him lie.

The word was formerly a *marine*, which, being used in a company at which William IV., then Duke of Clarence, was present, gave offence to an officer of that gallant corps, who asked the Prince what he meant by it. "I mean by *marine*," replied the Prince, with more readiness than was usual with him, "a good fellow who has done his duty, and is ready to do it again." The French term an empty bottle "un corps mort."

**Dead meat train** (common), a special train carrying corpses from Waterloo Station to the London Necropolis at Woking.

**Dead men's shoes** (common), property which can only be claimed after the decease of the holder.

**Dead nap** (provincial), a cheat, a downright rogue.

**Dead nip** (provincial), the failure of any petty plan or scheme.

**Dead nuts on** (popular Australian), very fond of. An amplification of the ordinary English slang "nuts on."

**Dead - oh!** (naval), is said of a man in the last stage of intoxication.

**Dead-on** (rifemen), straight on.

A rifle-shot talks of the aiming being *dead-on* when the day is so calm that he can aim straight at the bull's eye instead of having to allow to the right or left for wind. He is said to be *dead-on* himself when he is shooting very well.

**Dead, on the** (common), on the tectotal tack. Dead is often used as a strengthening adjective, "dead proper," "dead sober."

**Dead season** (journalistic), the time when nothing is going on. For society this is the summer, or during Lent.

**Dead sow's eye** (tailors), a badly worked button-hole.

**Dead stick, to** (theatrical), to stop, to break down utterly in the midst of a performance. The most eminent actors have been subject to sudden and treacherous lapses of memory. Macready has been known to break down in *Virginius*—a character he had acted thousands of times. Charles Kean has broken down in *Othello* and *Melnotte*. On the first night of "*Henry IV.*" at the Queen's Theatre, Phelps *stuck dead* or *dead stuck* in *Henry IV.*, and the actor who played the Prince of Wales had to prompt his royal father.

**Dead stock** (common), unsaleable ware.