

**Dropping the anchor** (racing), keeping back a horse in a race.

On the other hand, on remarking upon the wild way of riding, the visitor will probably be met with the retort, that if the jockeys did not flog their animals unmercifully, they would be accused of what is here termed in racing slang *dropping the anchor*.—*Sporting Times*.

**Drum** (popular and thieves), a house or lodging.

Call it what you like . . . *drum*, crib, owse, or whichever way you likes to put a name to it; it makes no matter to the place I mean.—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple*.

I went straight back to the old *drum* in Spitalfields, and after a drink with old friends we made up a tossing party, and I lost every penny of that ten shillings in a very little time.—*J. Greenwood: Seven Years' Penal Servitude*.

*Drum* means also a street, a road; in the West of England a "drong."

It may have come directly from the English gypsy *drum* (old form *drom*), which is, truly, from the Greek *δρῶμα*, a road. The origin of the old French cant word, *trime*, which has the same meaning, is probably identical.

(Old), rout or ball. From the noise of the entertainment a ball-room was called the "*drum-room*."

The bonny housemaid begins to repair the disordered *drum-room*.—*Fielding: Tom Jones*.

(Pugilistic), the ear.

(Tailors), a small workshop.

**Drummer** (tailors), trousers' maker.

(Old racing), a horse whose forelegs move in an irregular, unusual manner.

(American), a commercial traveller; probably from the simile of beating the drum to attract attention, or from *drum*, road.

*First Drummer*—"Had any fun this trip?" *Second Drummer*—"We tried to have some in Louisville, but it did not turn out very well. We painted the nose of one of the boys a brilliant red, and sent him into a revival-meeting." "They must have thought him a fit subject for conversion." "Well, no; they all rushed up to him, grabbed him by the hand, said they were glad to see him back from Europe, and asked for a puff in the *Courier Journal*."—*Omaha World*.

In this paragraph the editor of the *Omaha World* satirises a colleague in a rival newspaper.

(Thieves), a thief who makes his victims insensible by giving them a narcotic, or causing them to inhale chloroform. Probably a corruption of "drammer" from "dram."

**Drumstick** (popular), the leg; "*drumstick cases*," trousers.

**Drunk** (American), a state of intoxication.

Observing this, the opium master, who was still squatted on the bed, hastened to roll up a couple of cigarettes of common tobacco, and lit them by taking a whiff at each, after which he handed them to the Chinamen, who rose from the couch yawning, and, like men only half awake, staggered towards the fire, and sat regarding it in silence. They were not going yet; they had come for a *drunk*, and would probably indulge in half-a-dozen