

trary, means to beat, to chastise. In the same way the French *caresser*, literally to caress, means also to beat.

Firmed (theatrical), well *firmed*, perfect in the "business" and words.

First-chop (American), excellent, first-rate. In "Sam Slick in England," it is thus explained: "This phrase is used all through the United States as a synonym for first-rate." The word *chop* is Chinese for quality. He looks like a *first-chop* article. *Vide* CHOP.

"Wall," ses Linkin, "I think that is a *first-chop* idea."—*Major Jack Downing*.

First flight (sporting), the first persons at the finish in any kind of race, in a fox-hunt.

First nighters (journalistic), musical or dramatic critics who naturally attend on first nights.

The production of Anton Rubenstein's "Demon" in the charming Russian dialect at the oddly-named Jodrell Theatre, has, so far, been the only opportunity for *first nighters* to distinguish themselves.—*Sporting Times*.

More generally people who make a point of attending the first performance of plays.

First night wreckers (theatrical), men who attempt to hiss down a play on first performance.

First snap (American), at the beginning.

Van Cott, you could see at *first snap*, was grit all through, and as full of fight as a game rooster.—*The Golden Butterfly*.

Fish (common), a person; used in such phrases as an odd, a queer, prime, shy, loose *fish*, &c. (Nautical), a scaly *fish*, a rough, blunt-spoken seaman. (Tailors), pieces cut out of garments to make them fit close.

Fish market (gaming), the lowest hole at bagatelle. Also known as "Simon."

Fish, to (common), to endeavour to obtain favour, to ingratiate oneself, to curry favour. He who does it is a "fisher," a very opprobrious epithet.

Fishy (common), doubtful, suspicious, implying dishonesty, as in a *fishy* affair or "concern."

Fist (tailors), a "good *fist*," a clever workman. (Printers), an index hand.

Fist up, put your (tailors), acknowledge your error.

Fitter (thieves), a locksmith who makes burglars' keys.

Fitting up a show (studios), arranging an art exhibition.

Fit up (theatrical), a concern, small company.

Five fingers (cards), the five of trumps at the game of "don."