

blaze, or from the (Canadian) French *blessé*, to wound or hit. It was also applied to lightning at an early date. At present the tremendous wind-storms like the typhoon which sweep over the West are called *blizzards*. It possibly owes this later meaning to the German *blitz*.

With reference to the word *blizzard*, a Western correspondent sends the following:—The word was first used in Marshall, Minn., some thirteen years ago. Some friends were enjoying themselves at a public-house, when a storm of wind and snow arose, and one of the number, looking up quickly, uttered a German expression (our correspondent has forgotten the words) which sounded very much like *blizzard*. His friends took it up and have since called a storm of wind accompanied by snow a *blizzard*. Some years ago the origin of the word was sought and it was said to be Indian, and that an Indian used the expression (or one similar in sound) upon seeing some white men coming out of a severe snowstorm.—*Detroit Free Press*.

The German expression here referred to is "blitzen!"

**Bloat** (American), a drunkard, a drowned corpse.

**Bloater** (popular), "my bloater," a term of friendship much in favour with 'Arry, who likes his friends as much as his bloater for breakfast, and that is not saying a little.

But, bless yer, my bloater, it isn't all chin-music, vots and "ear! ear!" Or they wouldn't catch me on the ready, or nail me for ninepence. No fear!  
—*Punch*.

**Block, the** (Australian). "Doing the block," i.e., promenade, is

one of the favourite amusements of Melbourne ladies between twelve and one and five and six. *The block* is the fashionable promenade in Melbourne. *The block* is the block of buildings in Collins Street lying between Swanston Street and Elizabeth Street.

**Block house** (old slang), a prison, house of correction, penitentiary, and similar establishments. The expression reminds one of the French military slang term *le bloc*, an abbreviation of *blockhaus*.

**Block of stock** (American), an adaptation of the French term *en bloc*, meaning a large number of shares in anything, a great undivided mass, held as a single interest.

It would be comparatively easy, therefore, for a syndicate to take the control from Jay Gould, especially if Russell Sage or some other holder of a big *block of stock* were to join the movement.—*Chicago Tribune*, October 2, 1887.

**Block ornaments** (popular), the better kind of meat scraps sold at butchers' stalls.

On the shelves set out in front of the shop, meat scraps are offered at 1½d. the lb.; better scraps (or *block ornaments*, as they are termed) at 4d.—*Standard*.

For dinner, which on a week day is hardly ever eaten at the costermonger's abode, they buy *block ornaments*, as they call the small, dark-coloured pieces of meat exposed on the cheap butchers' blocks or counters.—*Henry Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor*.

Also old-fashioned, queer-looking men and women.