

humour in the thief saying that he has been *boned* or stolen by the policeman when taken into custody.

Tell us how you was *boned*, signifies tell us the story of your apprehension, a common request among fellow-prisoners in a jail, which is readily complied with as a rule; and the various circumstances therein related afford present amusement and also useful hints for regulating their future operations, so as to avoid the like misfortune.—*Vaux*.

Bone-grubber (common), a person who hunts for bones in dust-holes, or any spot where refuse is thrown.

The *bone-grubber* and the mud-lark differ little in their pursuits.—*Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor*.

The term was also applied to a resurrectionist. Cobbett was therefore called a *bone-grubber* because he brought the remains of Tom Paine from America (Hotten).

Bone-lazy (common), excessively or hopelessly lazy.

Boneless, a ghost, a shadowy and impalpable spectre or apparition.

Bone muscle, to (American cadets), to frequent the gymnasium; frequently to take exercise there.

Bone-picker (common), a footman.

Boner (Winchester), a blow given with the fist on the lowest vertebra.

Bones (medical), the *bones* of the human skull. "Do you know your *bones*?" *i.e.*, are you familiar with the anatomy of the human skeleton. (Stock Exchange), Wickens, Pease & Co.'s shares.

So now we shall soon have our "crackers,"
And likely enough our "cheroots,"
While our *bones* can be sent to the
"knackers,"
And then we have sweet "Sarah's
boots."
—*Atkin: House Scraps*.

(Common), to rattle the *bones*, to play at dice.

Bone setter (old), a hard or fast trotting horse.

Bone shaker (common), a name given to the old-fashioned bicycle, which was a clumsy wood machine, and was superseded by the spider steel machine, which is now being superseded in its turn by the smaller "Safety."

Bone shave, the sciatica or rheumatic gout in the sciatic nerve. According to Mr. Thomas Wright in his *Archaic Dictionary*, the peasantry of Exmore had a charm for the supposed cure or relief of this malady, consisting in the repetition of the following doggerel lines as the patient lay on his back on the brink of a brook or river, with a staff by his side between him and the water.

Bone shave right,
Bone shave straight.

As the water runs by the stone
Good for *bone shave*.