

of pounds, and divert from the pockets of the bookmakers a perfect river of gold.—*Bird o' Freedom*.

The *boys* is also a designation occasionally applied to the ring. "He is not on terms with the *boys*," means that the person alluded to has lost more money than he can pay, and does not venture within hail of the bookmakers.

**Brace, to** (American thieves), to get credit by swagger. To *brace* it through, to do a thing by sheer impudence.

**Bracelets** (police), handcuffs. Its equivalent is used in French slang.

"You'd better slip the *bracelets* on him, Jim." The fellow on my left produced a pair of handcuffs.—*Miss Braddon: Robert Ainsleigh*.

"Ah, but I do!" exclaimed the detective, suddenly seizing the trembling wretch. "Come, let's slip the *bracelets* on."—*G. Sims: Rogues and Vagabonds*.

**Brace of shakes, in a** (popular), in a moment.

**Brace up, to** (thieves), to pawn stolen goods. Hotten so defines it, but Vaux says: "To dispose of stolen goods by pledging them for the utmost you can get at a pawnbroker's is termed 'bracing them up.'"

**Bracket-faced** (old), of displeasing features, hard-visaged or ugly.

**Bracket-mug** (popular), a very ugly face, *mug* being slang for face.

**Brads** (thieves), halfpence, money.

Hotten says, *brads*, money; Vaux, "*Brads* are halfpence, also money in general." Properly *brads* are a kind of nails used by cobblers.

"Get anything?"

"Get anything? Not a *brad*, s'welp my never. The old bloke vhas a sittin' up a sharpenin' his scissors."

"But you must a' got something?"

"Vhell, yes—I vhas lucky to get out without bein' made a sheeny myself."—*Sporting Times*.

**Brag** (thieves), a money-lender at exorbitant interest, a Jew.

**Brain-pan** (medical), the skull-cap, the calvaria, also the skull itself. (Common), the head, called also "nob, nut, knowledge-box, canister, chump."

**Bramble**, a Kentish term for a lawyer.

**Bramble-gelder**. In Suffolk a derisive appellation for an agriculturist (Hotten).

**Bran** (popular), bread. French soldiery call it *boule de son*.

He purchased . . . a half-quartern loaf, or, as he himself expressed it, a fourpenny *bran*.—*Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist*.

**Branded ticket** (nautical), a discharge given to an infamous man, on which his character is given, and the reason he is turned out of [the service (Admiral Smyth).