

**Caboodle** (American), a New England expression, originally used by coasting sailors. It means the entire party, all the set or clique. It is probably a slang modification of the Spanish word *cabildo*, which means the same thing.

**Cackle** (circus), the dialogue of a play. Some actors seek to derive this word from cacalogy. It is, however, far more likely to have been derived by the equestrian performers, who introduced and popularised it, from the more homely "cluck, cluck" of the humble barn-door fowl, after the process of laying an egg.

When manager of Astley's, the great Ducrow, who shared the hatred which his craft has always more or less entertained towards the actor, was wont to apostrophise the performers in his equestrian drama after this fashion: "Come, I say, you mummies" (see MUMMERS), "cut your cackle, and come to the 'osses!"

(Roughs), talk.

He was dabs at the *cackle*.—*Punch*.

**Cackle-chucker** (theatrical), the prompter, whose duty it is to "chuck out" the words, *i.e.*, to prompt the actors when they forget, or don't know the words—a matter of rare occurrence amongst the hierarchy of English actors. As a rule, the prompter is the hardest worked and the worst paid man in the

theatre. Notwithstanding his proverbial industry and ability, under no concatenation of circumstances has a prompter ever been known to "give the word" at the precise moment when it is wanted. One of our most famous stage-managers, a well-known tragedian, is wont to affirm with grim humour that he has observed during a prolonged experience that the first qualification for a prompter is "not to know how to prompt."

**Cackle merchant** (theatrical), the author of a play.

**Cackler** (popular), talker.

The captain was a good-looking fellow, and a good fellow, too. "He ain't much of a *cackler*," thought Susie, when they had sat together for a little while.—*Ally Snyper's Half Holiday*.

(Thieves), a fowl; "prig of *cackler*," one who steals fowls.

**Cackler's ken** (thieves), hen roost.

**Cackle-tub** (common), a pulpit. Very old slang, but still in use.

"Jack, he goes to church," said Hass, lifting her eyebrows dubiously, "I don't rightly know to what shop, and it's too far off, maybe, and I ain't got a prayer-book; but I sorter think if yer'll borrow Lucy's chair to wheel me, I'll go and sit under the *cackle-tub* in Little Bethel next Sunday.—*Savage: London*.

**Cackling-chete** (old cant), a fowl.

She has a *cackling-chete*, a grunting-chete, ruff pecke, cassan and poplarr of yarum.—*T. Harman: Caveat*. *i.e.*, "She has a fowl, a pig, bacon, cheese, and milk porridge."