

Corpse, to (theatrical), to confuse, to put out fellow-actors by sticking fast in the dialogue; kill a scene through ignorance, wilfulness, or stupidity. A contretemps of this kind is called "a regular corpse."

Corroboree (up country Australian), to boil; a word borrowed from the natives, who thus call one of their wild dances. Whites generally use it in the sense of disturbance, hence it is said that a kettle *corroborees* when it boils.

Corybungus (pugilistic), backside.

Cosh (popular and thieves), a stick of any kind, but more especially a policeman's baton. From the gypsy *kāsh*, corrupt form *kāsh*, meaning wood in any form.

The officer . . . sought to give the finishing *coup de grâce* with his *cosh* . . . and it split the baton.—*Evening News*.

Cossack (popular), a policeman.

Costard (popular), the head; a very old word, used by Shakespeare in *King Lear*.

Coster bloke (popular), a costermonger.

I feels the tears come down my cheeks,
when I 'eerd him 'owl and wail,
"And," sez I, "I'm a simple *coster bloke*,
but my 'art's right as the mail."
—*Sporting Times*.

Cot, a term of opprobrium for a woman. Heard in Kentish

watering-places for the most part.

Cotton lord (common), a Manchester manufacturer or dealer in cotton.

Cottonopolis, Manchester (Hotten).

Cottons (Stock Exchange), Confederated Dollar Bonds.

Cotton, to (common), a colloquialism in the sense of to like, agree, be attached (literally to adhere, cling to, like cotton to cloth), but used in a slangy sense as in quotation.

For when once Madam Fortune deals out
her hard raps,

It's amazing to think how one *cottons* to
drink!

At such times, of all things in nature,
perhaps

There's not one that is half so seducing as
schnaps.

—*Ingoldsby Legends*.

Couch a hogshead, to (old cant), to lay down to sleep.

I *couched a hogshead* in a skypper this
darkemans.—*T. Harman: Caveat*.

Council of ten (popular), the toes of a man who turns his feet inward (Hotten).

Counterfeit crank (old cant), a rogue who shammed epilepsy. From the German *krank*, sick.

Those that do *counterfeit* the *crank* be
young knaves and yonge harlots, that
deply dissemble the falling sickness.—
T. Harman: Caveat.