

mythology, frequently alluded to by editors as being "in town." The information is generally coupled with a warning to some prominent person that his life is in danger.

St. John of Kansas says he is not "afraid." From this statement we infer, that if St. John of Kansas and the *fool-killer* ever meet, the fur will fly. Look out for locks of a dyed moustache.—*American Newspaper*.

**Fool's wedding** (popular), an assemblage of women at which no man is present. Cf. HEN CONVENTION. The metaphor probably is that of a wedding without a bridegroom.

**Foont** (thieves), explained by quotation.

I got between five or six *foont* (sovereigns).—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail*.

German *pfund*, pronounced *foont*.

**Footer** (schools), football. There are a number of slang terms formed by changing the legitimate ending of words into *er*. The custom is said to be derived from Harrow.

(Universities), one who plays football according to the Rugby rules.

**Footing-up** (American), but probably of English origin.

The Arab abhors statistics. He won't be tabulated if he could help it, and were you to go to Algeria, Doctor Colenso, you would find a deeply rooted objection among the people to the reckoning or *footing-up*, as the Americans call it, of

anything animate or inanimate.—*Geo. A. Sala: A Trip to Barbary*.

**Footman's maund** (old), an artificial sore in imitation of a kick from a horse, produced with unslaked lime, soap, and a piece of old iron.

**Foot-riding** (bicycling). When a cyclist cannot ride his iron steed, but is obliged to walk and wheel, it is called *foot-riding*.

Already I realise that there is going to be as much *foot-riding* as anything for the first part of my journey.—*Thomas Stevens: Round the World on a Bicycle*.

**Footsac** (South Africa), be off! An apostrophe to drive away intrusive dogs. Apparently a compound of the French *foutre*, pronounced *foute*, and *sacré*.

**Foot scamp** (old), a low fellow that stops you with bludgeon, cutlass, or knife, and ill-treats you (G. Parker).

**Foot wobbler** (old), an infantry soldier. Now termed a "wobbler," or "mud-crusher."

**Footy** (American and English), a foolish person, a "goose," a "coot." It is an English provincialism signifying trifling, mean, inferior, of little worth.

I think it would be a very pretty bit of practice to the ship's company to take her out from under that *footy* battery.—*Marryat: Peter Simple*.

*Footy* literally means "having foots," i.e., settlings, or dregs, as *footy* oil. Hence its application to anything inferior or