

whisky which will kill like a rifle at forty yards.

Fossed (thieves), thrown down (New York Slang Dictionary).

Fossick, to (Australian gold-miners).

Fossicking or "pocket mining," the searching for those scattered accumulations of gold which seem to have been washed into eddies in the early history of the earth.—*Standard*.

Also in the old digging days *fossicking* was getting a living by extracting what little gold there was from the refuse wash-dirt which previous miners had abandoned. So called from *fossicking*, taking trouble, it being tiresome work (Halliwell).

Fossicker (Australian gold-miners), an alluvial mining explorer. Also a miner who works at holes abandoned by others.

To this region must one come to see the *fossicker* in all his miserable state. Traveling in pairs, but usually working separately, the true gambusino of the North is found. Each boils his separate billy, and provides his frugal fare; each pitches his solitary tent; each works when and how disposed; each roams the ravines adjacent in search of some hidden store; and only when an abundance of water and cradling dirt convenient points out the mutual benefit, do the two combine and share the joint proceeds. Inducement for such a life is hard to find. Every pound of food has to be packed from fifty to a hundred miles. Salt meat is necessarily the sole form in which meat can be provided. Day after day, week after week, the patient *fossicker* tries creek after creek, gully after gully, ravine after ravine, with the same result, the monotonous "colour," or worse still,

the occasional presence of a coarse speck encouraging the delusion of better things.—*The Queenslander*.

Fossicking about, ferreting about.
Vide To FOSSICK.

Foul-weather Jack (nautical), a person whose presence on board ship is supposed to bring ill luck.

Found on demerit (American cadet), having more than the limit (100) (O. E. Wood, U.S. Army).

Found on math (American cadet), to do badly at mathematics—obviously a corruption of "to founder."

Four eyes (popular), a silly term for a person who wears an eye-glass or spectacles.

Four-holed middlings (Winchester College), walking shoes of an ordinary kind.

Four seams and a bit of soap (tailors), a quaint phrase for trouser-making.

Fourteen hundred (Stock Exchange), a password used when a stranger is seen in the "house."

"So help me Got, Mo, who is he?" Instead of replying in a straightforward way, Mo raised his voice as loud as he could, and shouted with might and main, "Fourteen hundred new fives!" A hundred voices repeated the mysterious exclamation.—*Atkin: House Scraps*.

Fourth (Cambridge), the W.C.; to "keep a fourth," to go to the