

"*gammy monniker*," a forged signature; "*gammy people*," people who are hostile to the tramps. Hotten says that the hieroglyphic used by beggars or cadgers to intimate to those of the tribe coming after that things are not very favourable, is known by  $\square$  or *gammy*. A *gammy-vial (ville)* is a town where the police interfere with tramps or hawkers.

**Gamp** (society), a common term for a monthly nurse. Derived from Sarah Gamp in "Martin Chuzzlewit," a monthly nurse famous for her gouty umbrella and perpetual reference to Mrs. Harris, a purely imaginary person, whose opinions always confirmed her own. (Common), an umbrella.

But I seriously declare that that wet day when I found myself stranded and desolate in an out-of-the-way village, if five shillings would have bought me the rustiest, most stump-worn and lettuce-shaped *gamp*, I would have paid down the money with delight.—*J. Greenwood: Tag, Rag, & Co.*

**Gamy**, foul, putrid. From a kitchen expression, as *gamy venison*, that is, like high game.

I wish, for the sake of Mr. Stickle's pigeons, that I could give a favourable account of that loft; but truth forbids. It was filthy in the extreme; and I no longer wondered how Club Row became possessed of its *gamy* atmosphere.—*J. Greenwood: Undercurrents of London Life.*

**Gan** (old cant), mouth.

This bowse is better than rom-bowse,  
It sets the *gan* a giggling.

—*From: Jovial Crew.*

This is very old slang, but still in use in America. From the Italian *ganascia*, jaw, a jawbone.

**Gander**, a married man. A very old English term, but still in use in America, where a *gander* (also a "stag") partly means a gathering of men only. *Gander-month* in England is the time during a wife's confinement, so called, in Hotten's opinion, from the free range which the husband has at that time among the "geese." It may be remarked in this connection that *geese* or *gheez* in Dutch slang means a young girl, any girl; also a lady of pleasure. It is very probable that there is an undercurrent of meaning in reference to these slang words in the nursery rhyme:—

"Goosey, Goosey *Gander*,  
Whither dost thou wander?  
Up stairs, down stairs,  
In my lady's chamber."

**Gandy month** (common). *Vide GANDER-MONTH* under **GANDER**.

**Gaoler's coach** (old slang), a hurdle on which at one time it was customary to convey criminals to the place of execution.

**Gape-seed** (common), something to look at, cause for astonishment; a lazy fellow unmindful of his work is said to be looking for *gape-seed* (Hotten).

**Gapes** (popular), fit of yawning.