

hooks," to be out of temper, vexed. French, "sortir de ses gonds," and "to put off the *hooks*," to vex, make angry.

Hook shop (American), a brothel, "hooker" being a prostitute. Much used by English residents in China. Possibly a corruption of "hock shop." The English and French slangs have the corresponding "buttocking shop" and "magasin de fesses."

Hook, to sling one's (popular), to depart, leave, run away; *sling* is a provincialism for to cast away, so that the phrase means literally "take your hook off," "let go your hold."

Hook, to take one's (common), to depart, leave, run away.

A STRANGE TIME-KEEPER.—*Landlord* (to old toper, who has come to the front door, and is gazing intently at an equestrian statue in the square): "I say, what do you keep coming to the door for?" "I want to see if it's time to *take my hook*." "But how can you see that?" "When that horse begins to prance, then it's high time."—*Tit Bits*.

Possibly an abbreviation of "take your *hook* off," that is, let go your hold, or the allusion being to a boat's hook which a man would naturally be told to take off as a signal for departure. This supposition is strengthened by the synonymous expression to "sling one's *hook*," which see.

Hook, with a (common), used in this phrase to imply doubt or

some reservation referring to an assertion; "yes, with a *hook* at the end of it." Dr. Brewer has "*with a hook at the end*, you suppose I assent, but my assent is not likely to be given. The subject has a *hook*, or note of interrogation (?), to denote that it is dubious."

"There is a gypsy story that a Romany had permission from a gentleman to fish in his pond, on condition that he should only use a hook. But the gypsy used a net, and emptied the pond of fish. On being asked what kind of a hook he had used, he replied: 'It was what we call in our language a *hookaben*,' i.e., a lie or a cheat. *Hook* is here the root, *aben* or *apen* simply indicating a noun" (C. G. Leland).

Hooky, to do (popular), the application of the thumb and fingers to the nose in contempt.

Hoop (American thieves), a ring.

Hoosier (American), a nickname given to natives of Indiana. Bartlett cites from the *Providence Journal* a story which has the appearance of being an after-manufacture to suit the name, deriving *hoosier* from "husher," "from their primary capacity to still their opponents." He also asserts that the Kentuckians maintained that the nickname expresses the exclamation of an Indian when he knocks at a door and