

THE BIRTH OF WORDS

A WEALTH OF EXPRESSIONS FROM THE HUMAN BODY.

More Than Four Hundred Words in Our Language Are Related to the Hand Alone and Almost as Many Are Derived From the Head.

The human body—its limbs, fingers, toes, mouth, nose, ears, head and some of the internal organs—has originated hundreds of words. In one of the large dictionaries more than 400 are found related to the hand alone and almost as many to the head.

Index, indicate, predicate, from a Greek word for finger, mean that which points out. So oracle and orator refer to what comes out of the mouth. Audience, audible, auscultation, the auditing of accounts, originally after a "hearing" of the officials, are traceable to the ear. Spirit means the breath and is also found in conspire, "to breathe together," inspire, "to breathe in," and even in perspire, "to breathe through." Impediment is something against the foot. Ell, the cloth measure, is the length of the forearm. The hair in capillary attraction means the power exerted through the capillary or hairlike tubes.

The heart (cordis) is to be observed in a cordial, or heartening, drink; a cordial, or hearty, manner; the core of an apple. Dents in wood or metal get their name from their resemblance to tooth marks. The tongue sticks out in several words, like language and linguist.

In some countries anybody may rise by his own merits to be somebody, even to the "head" of the nation or of the church; be a head master of a school, head a revolution, take up "arms" and prove to be a capital—that is, a headmost—soldier and the chief (head) of the army.

Corporal punishment is bodily punishment; capital punishment is punishment by decapitation, or taking off the head. A corporal—that is, a corporal—means the same as captain—that is, the head of a body of foot soldiers. A colonel is one who has been crowned. The commander in chief, or head commander, compels the chieftains, or headmen of the enemy, to capitulate—that is, surrender according to an agreement that is divided into capitulas, or little heads, or chapters.

A heady and headstrong ruler some times makes people wish he was headless. To make headway against his foes he may have to rush headlong into difficulties or take a header into the unknown sea of politics. Among some peoples one with the big head is likely to lose it. Under some the headship of the ship of state does not make headway against the head winds of events or around the "cape," or headland, just ahead. He may plunge into trouble over head and ears, and his opponents have to put their heads together to head him off, so as to prevent a head-on collision with another nation. Some men hate to be treated as deadheads at political headquarters or as so many head of cattle or as mutton heads or cabbage heads, cabbage itself being from an old Spanish word meaning head.

Some men "play their hand" for all there is in it. Some stretch out the glad hand to every one. Some keep hand in glove with those engaged in underhand proceedings as well as with those who have climbed to high places hand over hand. When the right man says "Hands off!" even his right hand man would not lay hands on what was forbidden. The clock hands tell us if we are beforehand or behindhand.

A handsome man originally was one who used his hands skillfully and so was graceful and probably, therefore, good looking. Although every one carries a palm in his hand, people no longer, with palms in their hands, welcome their heroes. One may have his finger in too many pies and tread on too many toes. One's chirography, manuscript, handwriting—they are all one—may be rather coarse, but his fine hand is detected in many a public document and so arouse opposition to his handling the funds. This might prove a severe handicap, which was originally so called from the jockeys putting their hands into a cap and drawing lots for the places that their horses were to have in the race. Footstool and foot rule sound alike, but in the first foot is the literal, in the second the figurative, use of the word.

Though the politician put his best foot forward he may find his foothold getting insecure and begin wondering what's afoot. His coachman, mounting the footboard, may be insolent; his footman, contemptuous; his chef, or head cook, neglectful. He may be ridiculed before the footlights as a social footpad, living a hand to mouth existence at the expense of the taxpayers. While they are insisting on his toeing the mark and he is hanging to his position by the toe nails, as the saying is, he may well wish he was back on his native foothills.

Were he arrested he might be handcuffed and fetters, or fetters, placed upon his feet. He might not even have an opportunity of making mouths or showing his teeth at his enemies. He might in other days be turned over to the headsman, but there would be no

newspaper headlines proclaiming that fact. Only a small headstone might tell his fate to the pedestrians, or foot passengers, going by.—New York Tribune.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

No man is as dangerous as his threats. When some men have nothing to do they become reformers.

If a man asks a candid opinion from a friend and gets it, it makes him mad. Some people invariably get the worst of it, because they are always demanding the best of it.

As soon as a man gets a notion that his employer can't get along without him he is getting ready to lose his job.

There is always the danger that every man will become the hired man and every mother the hired girl to their family.

When a young man begins to make regular visits to a girl, how it would knock out the romance if it were said that he was calling on her to make arrangements for hiring a cook.—Atchison Globe.

Era of Actium.

The "era of Actium," adopted during the early days of the Roman empire, commemorates the great victory gained by Octavius over the troops of Antony and Cleopatra, Jan. 1, B. C. 30. It was often used among the Romans both in writing and colloquially, just as in England people speak of events as occurring before or after the conquest, or as persons in this country frequently refer to events as having happened before or after the war.

A Year of Blood.

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Obedience.

Every duty, even the least duty, involves the whole principle of obedience. And little duties make the will dutiful—that is, supple and prompt to obey. Little obediences lead into great. The daily round of duty is full of probation and of discipline. It trains the will, heart and conscience.—Woman's Life.

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