

hind feet, a crested head, a short tail, and the upper lip divided like that of the hare. The body is covered with prickles which are very sharp, and some of them nine or ten inches long; these he can erect at pleasure. When attacked, he rolls his body into a round form, in which position the prickles are presented in every direction to the enemy. This species is a native of Africa and Asia. *Encyc.*

PORCUPINE-FISH, *n.* A fish which is covered with spines or prickles. It is of the diodon kind, and about fourteen inches in length. *Dict. Nat. Hist.*

PORE, *n.* [Fr. *pore*; Sp. *lt. poro*; Gr. *πορος*, from the root of *πορεύω*, to go, to pass, Sax. *faran*, Eng. to fare. See *Fare*. The word then signifies a passage.]

1. In *anatomy*, a minute interstice in the skin of an animal, through which the perspirable matter passes to the surface or is excreted.

2. A small spiracle, opening or passage in other substances; as the pores of plants or of stones. *Quincy. Dryden.*

PORE, *v. i.* [Qu. Gr. *επορω*, *επορω*, to inspect. In Sp. *porrear* is to dwell long on, to persist importunately; *porro*, doll; W. *para*, to continue, to persevere.]

To look with steady continued attention or application. To *pore on*, is to read or examine with steady perseverance, to dwell on; and the word seems to be limited in its application to the slow patient reading or examination of books, or something written or engraved.

Painfully to pore upon a book. *Shak.*
With sharpened sight pale antiquaries pore. *Pope.*

PO'RE-BLIND, } *a.* [Qu. Gr. *αωρος*.] Near-
PUR-BLIND, } sighted; short-sighted. *Bacon.*

PO'RER, *n.* One who pores or studies diligently. *Temple.*

POR'GY, *n.* A fish of the gilt-head kind.

POR'INESS, *n.* [from *porry*.] The state of being pory or having numerous pores. *Wiseman.*

PO'RISM, *n.* [Gr. *πορισμος*, acquisition, from *πορίζω*, to gain, from *πορος*, a passing; *πορεύω*, to pass.]

In *geometry*, a name given by ancient geometers to two classes of propositions. Euclid gave this name to propositions involved in others which he was investigating, and obtained without a direct view to their discovery. These he called *acquisitions*, but such propositions are now called *corollaries*. A *porism* is defined, "a proposition affirming the possibility of finding such conditions as will render a certain problem indeterminate or capable of innumerable solutions." It is not a theorem, nor a problem, or rather it includes both. It asserts that a certain problem may become indeterminate, and so far it partakes of the nature of a theorem, and in seeking to discover the conditions by which this may be effected, it partakes of the nature of a problem. *Encyc.*

PORIS'TIC, } *a.* Pertaining to a po-
PORIS'TICAL, } rism; seeking to de-
termine by what means and in how many ways a problem may be solved.

PO'RITE, *n.* plu. *porites*. A petrified madrepore. *Dict. Nat. Hist.*

PORK, *n.* [L. *porcus*, a hog or pig; Fr. *pore*; W. *porc*; Arm. *porcq*, *porchell*. Qu. from the shape of his back, L. *porca*, a ridge; or from his snout and rooting. In Sax. *berga* is a barrow.]

The flesh of swine, fresh or salted, used for food.

PORK-EATER, *n.* One that feeds on swine's flesh. *Shak.*

PORKER, *n.* A hog; a pig. [Not used in America.] *Pope.*

PORKET, *n.* A young hog. *Dryden.*

PORKLING, *n.* A pig. *Tusser.*

POROSITY, *n.* [from *porous*.] The quality or state of having pores or interstices. *Bacon.*

POROUS, *a.* [from *pore*.] Having interstices in the skin or substance of the body; having spiracles or passages for fluids; as a porous skin; porous wood; porous earth. *Milton. Chapman.*

POROUSNESS, *n.* The quality of having pores; porosity; as the porousness of the skin of an animal, or of wood, or of fossils.

2. The porous parts. [Not authorized.] *Digby.*

POR'PESS, *n.* [It. *porco*, a hog, and *pesce*, fish; hog-fish, called by other nations, sea-hog, G. *meerschwein*, Fr. *marsoin*, Dan. Sw. Norwegian, *marssvin*, Sw. *hafssvin*. In W. *morhuc*, sea-hog, is the name of the dolphin and grampus, from the resemblance of these animals to the hog, probably from the roundness of the back, as they appear in the water.]

In *zoology*, a cetaceous fish of the genus *Delphinus*, whose back is usually blackish or brown, whence it is called in Dutch, *bruinvisch*, brown fish; the body is thick towards the head, but more slender towards the tail, which is semi-lunar. This fish preys on other fish, and seeks food not only by swimming, but by rooting like a hog in the sand and mud, whence some persons suppose the name has been given to it.

Of cetaceous fish, we met with *porpesses*, or as some sailors call them, sea-hogs. *Kalm's Travels.*

PORPHYRITIC, } *a.* [See *Porphyry*.]
PORPHYRA CEUS, } Pertaining to porphyry; resembling porphyry.

2. Containing or composed of porphyry; as porphyreous mountains. *Kirwan.*

PORPHYRIZE, *v. t.* To cause to resemble porphyry; to make spotted in its composition. *Cooper.*

PORPHYRY, *n.* [Gr. *πορφυρα*, purple; L. *porphyrites*; Fr. *porphyre*; It. Sp. *porfido*.] A mineral consisting of a homogeneous ground with crystals of some other mineral imbedded, giving to the mass a speckled complexion. One variety of Egyptian porphyry has a purple ground, whence the name of the species; but the homogeneous ground with imbedded crystals, being all that is essential to porphyry, its composition and colors are consequently various. *D. Olmsted.*

Porphyry is very hard, and susceptible of a fine polish.

Porphyry is composed of paste in which are disseminated a multitude of little an-

gular and granuliform parts, of a color different from the ground. *Dict. Nat. Hist.*

PORPHYRY-SHELL, *n.* An animal or shell of the genus *Murex*. It is of the snail kind, the shell consisting of one spiral valve. From one species of this genus was formerly obtained a liquor that produced the Tyrian purple.

PORPITE, } The hair-button-stone, a
PORPITES, } small species of fossil coral of a roundish figure, flattened and striated from the center to the circumference; found immersed in stone. *Encyc.*

PORRA'CEOUS, *a.* [L. *porraceus*, from *porrum*, a leek or onion.] Greenish; resembling the leek in color. *Wiseman.*

PORREC'TION, *n.* [L. *porrectio*, *porrigo*; per or por, Eng. for, fore, and rego, Eng. to reach.] The act of stretching forth. [Not used.]

PORRET, *n.* [L. *porrum*; It. *porro*, *porretta*, a leek.] A scallion; a leek or small onion. *Brown.*

PORRIDGE, *n.* [Qu. *pottage*, by corruption, or L. *farrago*, or from *porrum*, a leek.] A kind of food made by boiling meat in water; broth. *Johnson.*

This mixture is usually called in America, broth or soup, but not porridge. With us, porridge is a mixture of meal or flour, boiled with water. Perhaps this distinction is not always observed.

PORRIDGE-POT, *n.* The pot in which flesh, or flesh and vegetables are boiled for food.

PORRINGER, *n.* [Qu. *porridge*, or Fr. *potager*; Corn. *podzher*.]

1. A small metal vessel in which children eat porridge or milk, or used in the nursery for warming liquors.

2. A head-dress in the shape of a porringer; in contempt. *Shak.*

PÖRT, *n.* [Fr. from L. *portus*; Sp. *puerto*; It. *porto*; Arm. *porz*; W. *porth*; from L. *porto*, to carry, Gr. *φορεω*, L. *fero*, Eng. to bear. The Welsh *porth* unites the significations of L. *porta* and *portus*, and the Gr. *φορεω* and *πορεύω* are probably of one family. The primary sense of L. *portus*, Eng. *port*, is probably an entrance, place of entrance or passage.]

1. A harbor; a haven; any bay, cove, inlet or recess of the sea or of a lake or the mouth of a river, which ships or vessels can enter, and where they can lie safe from injury by storms. Ports may be natural or artificial, and sometimes works of art, as piers and moles, are added to the natural shores of a place to render a harbor more safe. The word *port* is generally applied to spacious harbors much resorted to by ships, as the *port* of London or of Boston, and not to small bays or coves which are entered occasionally, or in stress of weather only. Harbor includes all places of safety for shipping.

2. A gate. [L. *porta*.] From their ivory port the cherubim
Forth issued. *Milton.*

3. An embrasure or opening in the side of a ship of war, through which cannon are discharged; a port-hole. *Raleigh.*

4. The lid which shuts a port-hole. *Mar. Dict.*

5. Carriage; air; mien; manner of movement or walk; demeanor; external ap-