

gina to support the uterus. It is made of wood, elastic gum, waxed linen, &c.

Hooper. Cooper.

PEST, *n.* [Fr. *peste*; L. *pestis*; It. *peste*, whence *appetstare*, to infect or corrupt, Sp. *apestar*. These words may be allied to the Heb. Ch. Syr. Eth. *שָׁאָה* to be fetid, Ar. to beat or throw down, or to a verb of that family. The primary sense is probably to strike or beat, hence a stroke. See Class Bs. No. 25. 39. 48.]

1. Plague; pestilence; a fatal epidemic disease.

Let fierce Achilles

The god propitiate, and the *pest* assuage.

Pope.

2. Any thing very noxious, mischievous or destructive. The talebearer, the gambler, the libertine, the drunkard, are *pests* to society.

Of all virtues justice is the best;

Valor without it is a common *pest*.

Waller.

PESTER, *v. t.* [Fr. *pester*.] To trouble; to disturb; to annoy; to harass with little vexations.

We are *pestered* with mice and rats. *More.*

A multitude of scribblers daily *pester* the world with their insufferable stuff. *Dryden.*

2. To encumber.

Milton.

PESTERED, *pp.* Troubled; disturbed; annoyed.

PESTERER, *n.* One that troubles or harasses with vexation.

PESTERING, *ppr.* Troubling; disturbing.

PESTEROUS, *a.* Encumbering; burdensome. [Little used.]

Bacon.

PESTHOUSE, *n.* A house or hospital for persons infected with any contagious and mortal disease.

PESTIFEROUS, *a.* [L. *pestis*, plague, and *fero*, to produce.]

1. Pestilential; noxious to health; malignant; infectious; contagious.

Arbutnot.

2. Noxious to peace, to morals or to society; mischievous; destructive.

3. Troublesome; vexatious.

Shak.

PESTILENCE, *n.* [L. *pestilentia*, from *pestilis*; *pestis*, plague.]

1. Plague, appropriately so called; but in a general sense, any contagious or infectious disease that is epidemic and mortal.

Shak.

2. Corruption or moral disease destructive to happiness.

Profligate habits carry *pestilence* into the bosom of domestic society. *J. M. Mason.*

PESTILENT, *a.* [L. *pestilens*, from *pestis*, plague.]

1. Producing the plague, or other malignant, contagious disease; noxious to health and life; as a *pestilent* air or climate. *Bacon.*

2. Mischievous; noxious to morals or society; destructive; in a general sense; as *pestilent* books.

3. Troublesome; mischievous; making disturbance; corrupt; as a *pestilent* fellow. Acts xxiv.

PESTILENTIAL, *a.* Partaking of the nature of the plague or other infectious disease; as a *pestilential* fever.

2. Producing or tending to produce infectious disease; as *pestilential* vapors.

3. Mischievous; destructive; pernicious.

South.

PESTILENTLY, *adv.* Mischievously; destructively.

PESTILLATION, *n.* [from L. *pistillum*, Eng. *pestle*.]

The act of pounding and bruising in a mortar. [Little used.] *Brown.*

PESTLE, *n.* *pes'l.* [L. *pistillum*, and probably *plnso*, for *piso*, to pound or beat; Sw. *piska*, to strike. See *Pest*.]

An instrument for pounding and breaking substances in a mortar. *Locke.*

Pestle of pork, a gammon of bacon.

Ainsworth.

PET, *n.* [This word may be contracted from *petulant*, or belong to the root of that word. *Pecrish*, which is evidently a contracted word, may be from the same root.]

A slight fit of peevishness or fretful discontent.

Life given for noble purposes must not be thrown away in a *pet*, nor whined away in love. *Collier.*

PET, *n.* [formerly *peat*. Qu. W. *péth*, a little; *péthan*, a babe or little thing; D. *boul*, a duck or dear; Ir. *baidh*, love; L. *peto*, or

Gr. *ποθος*, *ποθω*. In Pers. *بَت* bat is an idol, a dear friend, a mistress. In Russ. *pitayu* signifies to feed, nourish or bring up. The real origin of the word is doubtful.]

1. A cude lamb; a lamb brought up by hand.

2. A fondling; any little animal fondled and indulged. *Tatler.*

PET, *v. t.* To treat as a pet; to fondle; to indulge.

PETAL, *n.* [Fr. *petale*; Gr. *πεταλον*, from *πεταω*, to expand, L. *patco*. Class Bd. No. 65. &c.]

In botany, a flower leaf. In flowers of one *petal*, the corol and *petal* are the same. In flowers of several *petals*, the corol is the whole, and the *petals* are the parts, or the *petal* is one of the leaves of which the whole corol is composed. *Martyn.*

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PET'AL-SHAPED, *a.* Having the shape of a petal.

PET'ARD, *n.* [It. Sp. *petardo*; Fr. *petard*.]

An engine of war made of metal, nearly in the shape of a hat, to be loaded with powder and fixed on a maderier or plank, and used to break gates, barricades, draw-bridges and the like, by explosion. *Encyc.*

PETE'CHIAE, *n.* [Sp. *petequia*; It. *petechia*.]

Purple spots which appear on the skin in malignant fevers.

PETE'CHIAL, *a.* [Sp. *petequial*; It. *petechiale*.]

Spotted. A *petechial* fever is a malignant fever accompanied with purple spots on the skin.

PETER, } [See *Saltpeter*.]

PETRE, }

PET'REL, } An aquatic fowl of the genus *Procellaria*.

PET'REL, } *n.*

PET'ERPENCE, *n.* A tax or tribute formerly paid by the English people to the pope; being a penny for every house, payable at Lammas day. It was called also *Romescot*. *Hall.*

PET'ERWÖRT, *n.* A plant.

PET'OLAR, } Pertaining to a petiole,

PET'OLARY, } *a.* or proceeding from it; as a *petiolar* tendril.

2. Formed from a petiole; as a *petiolar* bud.

3. Growing on a petiole; as a *petiolar* gland. *Martyn.*

PET'OLATE, } *a.* Growing on a petiole;

PET'IOLED, } *a.* as a *petiolate* leaf. *Martyn.*

PET'IOLE, *n.* [L. *petiolus*, probably a diminutive from *pes*, *pedis*.]

In botany, a leaf-stalk; the foot-stalk of a leaf. *Martyn.*

PET'IT, *a.* *pet'ty*. [Fr. See *Petty*.] Small; little; mean. *South.*

This word *petit* is now generally written *petty*.

Petit constable, an inferior civil officer subordinate to the high constable.

Petit jury, a jury of twelve freeholders who are empaneled to try causes at the bar of a court; so called in distinction from the grand jury, which tries the truth of indictments.

Petit larceny, the stealing of goods of the value of twelve pence, or under that amount; opposed to *grand larceny*.

Petit serjeanty, in English law, the tenure of lands of the king, by the service of rendering to him annually some implement of war, as a bow, an arrow, a sword, lance, &c.

Petit treason, the crime of killing a person to whom the offender owes duty or subjection. Thus it is *petit treason* for a wife to kill her husband, or a servant his lord or master. *Blackstone.*

PET'IT-MAÎTRE, *n.* *pet'ty-maitre*. [Fr. a little master.]

A spruce fellow that dangles about females; a fop; a coxcomb. *Addison.*

PET'ITION, *n.* [L. *petitio*, from *peto*, to ask, properly to urge or press, Sax. *bid-dan*, Goth. *bidyan*, G. *bitten*, D. *bidden*, Sw. *bedia*, Dan. *beder*, Sp. *pedir*, Arm. *pidi*, Ir. *impidhim*, Corn. *pidzha*. Qu.

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