

soft medullary, medullary substance, or porous part, between the plates of the skull.

Care. Encyc.

DIPLOMA, *n.* [Gr. *διπλωμα*, from *διπλω*, to double or fold. Anciently, a letter or other composition written on paper or parchment and folded; afterwards, any letter, literary monument, or public document.]

A letter or writing conferring some power, authority, privilege or honor. Diplomas are given to graduates of colleges on their receiving the usual degrees; to clergymen who are licensed to exercise the ministerial functions; to physicians who are licensed to practice their profession; and to agents who are authorized to transact business for their principals. A diploma then is a writing or instrument, usually under seal and signed by the proper person or officer, conferring merely honor, as in the case of graduates, or authority, as in the case of physicians, agents, &c.

DIPLOMACY, *n.* [This word, like *supremacy*, retains the accent of its original.]

1. The customs, rules and privileges of ambassadors, envoys and other representatives of princes and states at foreign courts; forms of negotiation.

2. A diplomatic body; the whole body of ministers at a foreign court.

3. The agency or management of ministers at a foreign court. *Cervallio.*

DIPLOMATED, *a.* Made by diplomas. *Kennet.*

DIPLOMATIC, *a.* Pertaining to diplomas; privileged.

2. Furnished with a diploma; authorized by letters or credentials to transact business for a sovereign at a foreign court. Ministers at a court are denominated a *diplomatic body*.

3. Pertaining to ministers at a foreign court, or to men authorized by diploma; as a *diplomatic character*; *diplomatic management*.

DIPLOMATIC, *n.* A minister, official agent or envoy to a foreign court.

DIPLOMATICS, *n.* The science of diplomas, or of ancient writings, literary and public documents, letters, decrees, charters, codicils, &c., which has for its object to decipher old writings, to ascertain their authenticity, their date, signatures, &c. *Encyc. Læm.*

DIPPER, *n.* One that dips; he or that which dips.

2. A vessel used to dip water or other liquor; a ladle.

DIPPING, *ppr.* Plunging or immersing into a liquid and speedily withdrawing, as to ascertain the temperature of water by *dipping* the finger in it; baptizing by immersion.

2. Engaging or taking a concern in.

3. Looking into here and there; examining in a cursory, slight or hasty manner.

4. Inclining downward, as the magnetic needle.

5. Breaking; inclining; as a vein of ore.

DIPPING, *n.* The act of plunging or immersing.

2. The act of inclining towards the earth; inclination downwards; as the *dipping* of the needle.

3. The interruption of a vein of ore, or stratum of a fossil, in a mine; or a sloping downwards.

4. The act of baptizing by the immersion of the whole body in water.

DIPPING-NEEDLE, *n.* A needle that dips; a magnetic needle which dips or inclines to the earth; an instrument which shows the inclination of the magnet, at the different points of the earth's surface.

In the equatorial regions, the needle takes a horizontal position; but as we recede from the equator towards either pole, it dips or inclines one end to the earth, the north end, as we proceed northward, and the south end, as we proceed southward, and the farther north or south we proceed, the greater is the dip or inclination. This is on the supposition that the poles of the earth and the magnetic poles coincide, which is not the case. The above statement is strictly true, only of the magnetic equator and its poles. *Cervallio. Cyc.*

DIPRISMATIC, *a.* [di and *prismatic*.] Doubly prismatic. *Jameson.*

DIP SAs, *n.* [Gr. *δίψας*, dry, thirsty; *δίψασι*, to thirst.]

A serpent whose bite produces a mortal thirst. See Deut. viii.

DIPTER, *n.* [Gr. *δύς* and *πτερόν*, a DIPTERA, *n.* wing.]

The *dipters* are an order of insects having only two wings, and two poisers, as the fly. *Encyc.*

DIPTERAL, *a.* Having two wings only.

DIP TOTE, *n.* [Gr. from *δύς* and *πτερόν*, to fall.]

In grammar, a noun which has only two cases; as, *suppletive*, *suppletives*. *Encyc.*

DIP TYCH, *n.* [Gr. *δίπτερος*; *δύς* and *πτερόν*, πτερόν, to fold.]

A public register of the names of consuls and other magistrates among pagans; and of bishops, martyrs and others, among christians; so called because it consisted of two leaves folded, but it sometimes contained three or more leaves. The sacred diptych was a double catalogue, in one of which were registered the names of the living, and in the other the names of the dead, which were to be rehearsed during the office. *Encyc.*

DIPYRE, *n.* A mineral occurring in minute prisms, either single or adhering to each other in fascicular groups. Before the blowpipe, it melts with ebullition or intumescence, and its powder on hot coals phosphoresces with a feeble light. Its name, from Gr. *δύο*, two, and *πυρ*, fire, indicates the double effect of fire, in producing fusion and phosphorescence. *Cleveland.*

DIRE, *a.* [L. *divus*. If the primary sense is terrible, this word may belong to the root of *terro*. But it may be great, wonderful, Syr. *ܕܝܪ* ther, to wonder; or it may be raging, furious, as in L. *dira*.]

Dreadful; dismal; horrible; terrible; evil in a great degree.

Dire was the tossing, deep the groans. *Milton.*

DIRECT, *a.* [L. *directus*, from *dirigo*; *di* and *rego*, *rectus*, to make straight. See *Right*.]

1. Straight; right; as, to pass in a *direct line* from one body or place to another. It is opposed to *crooked*, *winding*, *oblique*. It is also opposed to *refracted*; as a *direct ray* of light.

2. In astronomy, appearing to move forward in the zodiac, in the direction of the signs; opposed to *retrograde*; as, the motion of a planet is *direct*.

3. In the line of father and son; opposed to *collateral*; as a descendant in the *direct line*.

4. Leading or tending to an end, as by a straight line or course; not circuitous. Thus we speak of *direct means* to effect an object; a *direct course*; a *direct way*.

5. Open; not ambiguous or doubtful. *Bacon.*

6. Plain; express; not ambiguous; as, he said this in *direct words*; he made a *direct acknowledgment*.

7. In music, a *direct interval* is that which forms any kind of harmony on the fundamental sound which produces it; as the fifth, major third and octave. *Rousseau.* *Direct tax*, is a tax assessed on real estate, as houses and lands.

DIRECT, *v. t.* [L. *directum*, *directus*, from *dirigo*.]

1. To point or aim in a straight line, towards a place or object; as, to *direct* an arrow or a piece of ordnance; to *direct* the eye; to *direct* a course or flight.

2. To point; to show the right road or course; as, he *directed* me to the left hand road.

3. To regulate; to guide or lead; to govern; to cause to proceed in a particular manner; as, to *direct* the affairs of a nation.

Wisdom is profitable to *direct*. Eccles. x.

4. To prescribe a course; to mark out a way. Job xxxviii.

5. To order; to instruct; to point out a course of proceeding, with authority; to command. But *direct* is a softer term than *command*.

DIRECT, *n.* In music, a character placed at the end of a stave to direct the performer to the first note of the next stave. *Bushy.*

DIRECTED, *pp.* Aimed; pointed; guided; regulated; governed; ordered; instructed.

DIRECTER, *n.* A director, which see.

DIRECTING, *ppr.* Aiming; pointing; guiding; regulating; governing; ordering.

DIRECTION, *n.* [L. *directio*.] Aim at a certain point; a pointing towards, in a straight line or course; as, the *direction* of good works to a good end. *Smalbridge.*

2. The line in which a body moves by impulse; course. Matter or body cannot alter the *direction* of its own motion.

3. A straight line or course. A star appeared in the *direction* of a certain tower. The ship sailed in a south-easterly *direction*.

4. The act of governing; administration; management; guidance; superintendence; as the *direction* of public affairs; *direction* of domestic concerns; the *direction* of a bank.

5. Regularity; adjustment. All chance, direction which thou canst not see. *Pope.*

6. Order; prescription, either verbal or written; instruction in what manner to proceed. The employer gives *directions* to his workmen; the physician, to his patient.

7. The superscription of a letter, including the name, title and place of abode of the person for whom it is intended.