

DIT'TANY, *n.* [*L. dictamnus*; *Gr. δίκταμνος*, or *δίκταμνος*.]

The white dittany is a plant of the genus *Dictamnus*. Its leaves are covered with a white down; in smell, they resemble lemon-thyme, but are more aromatic. When fresh, they yield an essential oil.

The dittany of Crete is a species of *Origanum*, and the bastard dittany is a species of *Marrubium*. *Encyc. Fam. of Plants.*

DIT'TY, *a.* [See *Ditty*.] Sung; adapted to music.

He, with his soft pipe, and smooth dittied song. *Milton.*

DIT'TO, contracted into *do*, in books of accounts, is the Italian *detto*, from *L. dictum*, *dictus*, said. It denotes said, aforesaid, or the same thing; an abbreviation used to save repetition.

DIT'TY, *n.* [supposed to be from the *D. dicht*, a poem, *Sax. diht, dihten*. If so, it coincides in origin with the *L. dico, dictum*.]

A song; a sonnet or a little poem to be sung.

And to the warbling lute soft ditties sing. *Saunders.*

DIT'TY, *v. i.* To sing; to warble a little tune. *Herbert.*

DIURETIC, *a.* [*Gr. διουρητικός*, from *διούρειος*, *dia* and *ουρος*, urinary redden, *ουρος*, urine.]

Having the power to provoke urine; tending to produce discharges of urine. *Cole.*

DIURETIC, *n.* A medicine that provokes urine, or increases its discharges.

DIURNAL, *a.* [*L. diurnus*, daily; *W. diurnal*, daily, a day. The word is a compound of *diu*, *dies*, day, and a word which I do not understand.]

1. Relating to a day; pertaining to the day-time, as *diurnal heat*; *diurnal hours*.

2. Daily; happening every day; performed in a day; as a *diurnal task*.

3. Performed in 24 hours; as the *diurnal* revolution of the earth.

4. In medicine, an epithet of diseases whose exacerbations are in the day time; as a *diurnal fever*. *Par.*

DIURNAL, *n.* A day-book; a journal. [See *Journal*, which is mostly used.]

DIURNALIST, *n.* A journalist. [Not in use.] *Hall.*

DIURNALLY, *adv.* Daily; every day.

DIUTURNAL, *a.* Lasting; being of long continuance. *Milton.*

DIUTURNITY, *n.* [*L. diuturnitas*, from *diuturnus*, of long continuance, from *diu*, *dies*.] Length of time; long duration. *Brown.*

DIVAN, *n.* [*Ar. Pers. دیوان* *diwan*. The

Arabic verb *دَانَ* is rendered, to be low, mean, vile, contemptible, [qu. *down*.] and also, to write on a white table. Hence *diwan* is a register or table of names or accounts, and hence it came to signify a court or council assembled, as we use *board* and *exchequer*.]

1. Among the Turks and other orientals, a court of justice, or a council.

2. A council-chamber; a hall; a court.

3. Any council assembled. *Pope. Milton.*

DIVARICATE, *v. i.* [*L. divaricatus*, *divarico*; *di*, *dis*, and *varico*, to straddle.]

To open; to fork; to part into two branches. *Woodward.*

DIVARICATE, *v. t.* To divide into two branches. *Grege.*

DIVARICATE, *a.* In botany, standing out wide. A *divaricate* branch forms an obtuse angle with the stem. It is applied also to panicles, peduncles and petioles.

DIVARICATE, *pp.* Parted into two branches. *Martyn.*

DIVARICATING, *ppr.* Parting into two branches.

DIVARICATION, *n.* A parting; a forking; a separation into two branches.

2. A crossing or intersection of fibers at different angles. *Cole.*

DIVE, *v. i.* [*Sax. dyfan*, *ge-dyfan*; *Gr. δύνω*, *di*, *infare*; coinciding with *dip*, *Heb. Ch. y22*. The same word in *Syr.* and *Ar.* signifies to stamp, strike, print, impress. Class Db. No 28. The sense then is, to thrust or drive.]

1. To descend or plunge into water, as an animal head first; to thrust the body into water or other liquor, or if already in water, to plunge deeper. In the pearl fishery men are employed to *dive* for shells.

2. To go deep into any subject; as, to *dive* into the nature of things, into arts or science. *Dryden.*

3. To plunge into any business or condition, so as to be thoroughly engaged in it. *Shak.*

4. To sink; to penetrate. *Shak.*

DIVE, *v. t.* To explore by diving. [*Rare.*] The Curti bravely dived the gulf of fate. *Denham.*

DIVEL, *n.* A large cartilaginous fish, with a bifurcated snout; the sea *devil* of Newfoundland. *Pennant.*

DIVEL/LENT, *a.* [*L. divellens*, *divello*; *dis* and *vello*, to pull.] Drawing asunder; separating.

DIVEL/LICATE, *v. t.* To pull in pieces.

DIVER, *n.* One who dives; one who plunges head first into water; one who sinks by effort; as a *diver* in the pearl fishery.

2. One who goes deep into a subject, or enters deep into study.

3. A fowl, so called from diving. The name is given to several species of the genus *Columbus*.

DIVERB, *n.* A proverb. [Not in use.] *Burton.*

DIVERGE, *v. i.* [*L. divergo*; *di*, *dis*, and *vergo*, to incline.]

To tend from one point and recede from each other; to shoot, extend or proceed from a point in different directions, or not in parallel lines. Rays of light proceed from the sun and continually *diverge*. It is opposed to *converge*.

DIVERGENCE, *n.* A receding from each other; a going farther apart; as the *divergence* of lines, or the angle of *divergence*.

DIVERGENT, *a.* Departing or receding from each other, as lines which proceed from the same point; opposed to *convergent*.

DIVERGING, *ppr.* Receding from each other, as they proceed.

DIVERG/INGLY, *adv.* In a diverging manner.

DIVERS, *a. s. as z.* [*Fr. divers*; *L. diversus*, from *diverto*; *di*, *dis*, and *verto*, to turn.]

1. Different; various.

Thou shalt not sow thy fields with *divers* seeds. Deut. xxii.

Nor let thy cattle gender with *divers* kinds. Lev. xix.

[This is now generally written *diverse*.]

2. Several; sundry; more than one, but not a great number. We have *divers* examples of this kind.

[This word is not obsolete even in common discourse, and is much used in law-proceedings.]

DIVERSE-COLORED, *a.* Having various colors. *Shak.*

DIVERSE, *a.* [*L. diversus*.] Different; differing.

Four great beasts came from the sea, *diverse* one from another. Dan. vii.

2. Different from itself; various; multifarious. Eloquence is a *diverse* thing. *B. Jonson.*

3. In different directions. And with tendrils creep *diverse*. *Philips.*

DIVERSE, *v. i.* *divers*. To turn aside. [Not used.] *Spenser.*

DIVERSIFICATION, *n.* [See *Diversify*.]

1. The act of changing forms or qualities, or of making various. *Boyle.*

2. Variation; variegation. *Hale.*

3. Variety of forms.

4. Change; alteration.

DIVERSIFIED, *pp.* Made various in form or qualities; variegated; altered.

2. *a.* Distinguished by various forms, or by a variety of objects; as *diversified* scenery; a *diversified* landscape.

DIVERSIFORM, *a.* [*diversus* and *forma*.] Of a different form; of various forms. *Dict.*

DIVERSIFY, *v. t.* [*Fr. diversifier*; *Sp. diversificar*; *L. diversus* and *facio*.]

1. To make different or various in form or qualities; to give variety to; to variegate; as, to *diversify* the colors of a robe; to *diversify* a landscape with mountains, plains, trees and lakes.

2. To give diversity to; to distinguish by different things; as a council *diversified* by different characters.

3. In oratory, to vary a subject, by enlarging on what has been briefly stated, by brief recapitulation, by adding new ideas, by transposing words or periods, &c.

DIVERSIFYING, *ppr.* Making various in form or qualities; giving variety to; variegating.

DIVERSION, *n.* [*Fr. from L. divertio*, to divert.]

1. The act of turning aside from any course; as the *diversion* of a stream from its usual channel; the *diversion* of a purpose to another object; the *diversion* of the mind from business or study.

2. That which diverts; that which turns or draws the mind from care, business or study, and thus relaxes and amuses; sport; play; pastime; whatever unbends the mind; as the *diversions* of youth. Works of wit and humor furnish an agreeable *diversion* to the studious.

3. In war, the act of drawing the attention and force of an enemy from the point where the principal attack is to be made, as by an attack or alarm on one wing of an army, when the other wing or center