

sists of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen. It is extremely light and inflammable, and a powerful stimulant and antiseptic. This is the usual sense of the word; but originally, in Arabic, it signified a fine impalpable powder, in which sense it is still used. *Encyc.*

**ALCOHOLIC**, *a.* Pertaining to alcohol, or partaking of its qualities. *Med. Rep.*

**ALCOHOLIZATION**, *n.* The act of rectifying spirit, till it is wholly dephlegmated; or of reducing a substance to an impalpable powder.

**ALCOHOLIZE**, *v. t.* To convert into alcohol; to rectify spirit till it is wholly dephlegmated; also, to reduce a substance to an impalpable powder.

**ALCOR**, *n.* [Ar.] A small star adjoining to the large bright one in the middle of the tail of Ursa Major. *Encyc.*

**ALCORAN**. [See *Koran* and *Alkoran*.]

**ALCOVE** or **ALCOVE**, *n.* [Sp. *alcoba*.

composed of *al*, with the Ar. *كَب* kabba.

to arch, to construct with an arch, and its derivatives, an arch, a round house; Eng. *cubby*.]

1. A recess, or part of a room, separated by an estrade, or partition of columns, or by other corresponding ornaments; in which is placed a bed of state, and sometimes seats for company. The bed is sometimes raised two or three steps, with a rail at the foot. These are frequent in Spain. *Encyc.*

2. A recess in a library, or small lateral apartment for books.

**ALCYON**, *n.* A trivial name of the kingfisher. [See *Halecyon*.]

**ALCYONITE**, *n.* [Supra.]

A fossil zoophyte, somewhat resembling a fungus. *J. of Science.*

**ALCYONIUM**, *n.* The name of a submarine plant, or bastard sponge. Also a kind of astroir or coral, a fossil found in England. *Encyc.*

**ALDER**, *n.* [L. *alnus*; Fr. *aune*, *aulne*; Sax. *aln*.]

A tree, usually growing in moist land, and belonging to the genus *Alnus*. The name is applied also to some species of other genera.

**ALDERMAN**, *n. plu.* Aldermen. [Sax. *ald* or *eald*, old, comp. *alder*, older, and *man*; G. *alt*; D. *oud*.]

1. Among our Saxon Ancestors, a senior or superior. The title was applied to princes, dukes, earls, senators and presiding magistrates; also to archbishops and bishops, implying superior wisdom or authority. Thus, Ethelstan, duke of the East-Angians, was called alderman of all England; and there were aldermen of cities, counties, and castles, who had jurisdiction within their respective districts.

2. In present usage, a magistrate or officer of a town corporate, next in rank below the mayor. The number of aldermen is different in different cities. In London the number is twenty-six, one in each ward, and the office is held for life. *Spelman. Concl. Encyc.*

In the United States, the number of aldermen depends on the charters of incorpora-

tion. In general, aldermen have the powers of a justice of the peace, and, with the mayor, they constitute the court of the corporation. In most of our cities, they are annually elected by the citizens.

**ALDERMANLY**, *a.* Pertaining to or like an alderman. *Sieft.*

**ALDERN**, *n.* Made of Alder.

**ALE**, *n.* [Sax. *eala*, *eale*, or *aloah*; G. *al*; Sw. *ol*; Dan. *ol*; Ir. *ol*. Qu. Ir. *alam*, to drink.]

1. A liquor made from an infusion of malt by fermentation. It differs from beer, in having a smaller proportion of hops. It is of different sorts, chiefly *pale* and *brown*; the first made from malt slightly dried; the second, from malt more considerably dried or roasted. Ale was the common drink of the ancient inhabitants of Europe. It is usually made with barley; but sometimes with wheat, rye, millet, oats, &c. *Encyc.*

2. A merry meeting in English country places, so called from the liquor drunk. *Ben Jonson.*

*Medicated Ales* are those which are prepared for medicinal purposes, by an infusion of herbs during fermentation. *Encyc.*

**ALE-BENCH**, *n.* A bench in or before an ale house. *Homilies.*

**ALE-BERRY**, *n.* A beverage, made by boiling ale with spice, sugar and sops of bread. *Johnson.*

**ALE-BREWER**, *n.* One whose occupation is to brew ale.

**ALE-CONNER**, *n.* [*ale* and *con*, to know or see.]

An officer in London, whose business is to inspect the measures used in public houses, to prevent frauds in selling liquors. Four of these are chosen annually by the livery men, in common hall, on midsummer's day. *Act of Parl.*

**ALE-COST**, *n.* Costmary, a plant, a species of Tanaetum. *Stafford.*

**ALE-FED**, *a.* Fed with ale.

**ALE-GAR**, *n.* [*ale*, and Fr. *aigre*, sour.]

Sour ale; the acid of ale.

**ALE-HOOF**, *n.* [D. *eiloof*, a plant used in brewing.]

Ground-ivy, the glechoma hederacea, of Linne. The leaves of this plant are used to clarify and give flavor to ale. *Lee. Encyc.*

**ALE-HOUSE**, *n.* A house where ale is retained; and hence a tippling house.

**ALE-HOUSE-KEEPER**, *n.* One who keeps an ale-house.

**ALE-KNIGHT**, *n.* A pot companion. *Chaucer.*

**ALE-SHOT**, *n.* A reckoning to be paid for ale.

**ALE-SILVER**, *n.* A duty paid to the Lord Mayor of London, by the sellers of ale within the city.

**ALE-STAKE**, *n.* A stake set as a sign before an ale-house. *Chaucer.*

**ALE-TASTER**, *n.* An officer appointed in every court leet, and sworn, to inspect ale, beer and bread, and examine the quality and quantity within the precincts of the lordship. *Concl.*

**ALE-VAT**, *n.* A vat in which ale is fermented.

**ALE-WASHED**, *a.* Steeped or soaked in ale. *Shak.*

**ALE-WIFE**, *n.* A woman who keeps an ale house.

**ALEWIFE**, or **A LOOF**, *n.* [This word is properly *aloof*, the Indian name of a fish. See *Windrop* on the culture of maize in America, Phil. Trans. No. 142. p. 1065. and Baddan's Memoirs, vol. 2. 131.]

An American fish, belonging to the genus *Clupea*, and called *Clupea Serrata*. It resembles the herring. The established pronunciation is *alewife*, *plu. alewives*.

**ALECTRYOMANCY**, *n.* [Gr. *αλεκτρυον*, a cock, and *μαντεία*, divination.]

An ancient practice of foretelling events by means of a cock. The twenty four letters were laid on the ground, and a grain of corn on each; a cock was then permitted to pick up the grains, and the letters under the grains selected, being formed into words, were supposed to foretell the event desired. *Encyc.*

**ALEE**, *adv.* [*a* or *at* and *lee*. See *Lee*.]

In seamen's language, on the side opposite to the wind, that is, opposite to the side on which it strikes. The helm of a ship is *alee*, when pressed close to the lee side.

*Hard alee* or *luff alee*, is an order to put the helm to the lee side.

*Helm's alee*, that is, the *helm* is *alee*, a notice given as an order to the seamen to cause the head-sails to shake in the wind, with a view to bring the ship about. *Mar. Dict.*

**ALEGER**, *a.* [Fr. *Sp. alegre*; L. *alacer*.] Gay; cheerful; sprightly. [Not used.] *Isaac.*

**ALEGGE**, *v. t.* To lighten; to lessen; to assuage. [Not used.]

**ALEMBIC**, *n.* In Turkey, an officer who bears the green standard of Mohammed, when the Sultan appears in public. *Encyc.*

**ALEMBIC**, *n.* [Ar. *al* and *انبيق* or *انبيق*.]

A chemical vessel used in distillation; usually made of glass or copper. The bottom part containing the liquor to be distilled, is called the *cucurbit*; the upper part which receives and condenses the steam, is called the head, the beak of which is fitted to the neck of a receiver. The head is more properly the alembic. This vessel is not so generally used now, as the worm still and retort.

**ALENGTH**, *adv.* [*a* and *length*.]

At full length; along; stretched at full length. *Chaucer.*

**ALEPIDOTE**, *n.* [Gr. *a priv.* and *λεπίς*, a scale.]

Any fish whose skin is not covered with scales.

**ALERT**, *a.* [Fr. *alerte*; Sp. *alerto*, vigilant, watchful, *estar alerta*, to be on the watch.]

1. Watchful; vigilant; active in vigilance. Hence the military phrase, *upon the alert*, upon the watch, guarding against surprise or danger.

2. Brisk; nimble; moving with celerity. *Spectator.*

**ALERTNESS**, *n.* Briskness; nimbleness; sprightliness; levity. *Addison.*