

ble bodies, so as to enable us to examine their texture or construction.

MICROSCOPIC, } Made by the aid
MICROSCOPICAL, } of a microscope;
as *microscopic* observation. *Arbuthnot.*

2. Assisted by a microscope.

Evading even the *microscopic* eye.

3. Resembling a microscope; capable of seeing small objects.

Why has not man a *microscopic* eye? *Popc.*

4. Very small; visible only by the aid of a microscope; as a *microscopic* insect.

MICROSCOPICALLY, *adv.* By the microscope; with minute inspection. *Good.*

MICTURITION, *n.* [*L. micturio.*] The act of making water, or passing the urine. *Darwin.*

MID, *a.* [*Sax. midd, midde*; *L. medius*; *W. mid*, an inclosure.]

1. Middle; at equal distance from extremes; as the *mid* hour of night. *Rowe.*

2. Intervening.

No more the mounting larks, while Daphne sings,

Shall, lifting in *mid* air, suspend their wings. *Pope.*

MIDA, *n.* [*Gr. μιδας.*] A worm, or the beetle-fly. *Chambers.*

MID-AGE, *n.* The middle of life, or persons of that age. *Shak.*

MID-COURSE, *n.* The middle of the course or way. *Milton.*

MID-DAY, *a.* Being at noon; meridional; as the *mid-day* sun. *Addison.*

MID-DAY, *n.* The middle of the day; noon. *Donne.*

MID-DEST, *a. superl. of mid.*

Among the *middest* crowd. [*Not used.*] *Spenser.*

MIDDLE, *a. mid'l.* [*Sax. D. middel*; *G. mittel*; *Dan. middel*; perhaps *mid* and *deel*; *Sans. medhi* and *madhyam*; *L. medius*; *Gr. μεσος*; *It. mezzo*; *Sp. medio*; *Port. mayo*, *mediano*; *Ir. modham*, *muadh*; *Fr. midi*, *moyen*, [*mitan*, *obs.*]; *Ch. מצפן*. This word has the elements of the *Sax. mid*, *D. mede*, *Sw. and Dan. mede*, *G. mit*, with, *Gr. μετα*, which is from the root of the English *meet*, which see. *Qu.* has not the *L. medius*, in the phrase *medius fidius*, the sense of *with* or *by*; *by* or *with my faith*. In *W. mid* signifies an inclosure, a hem or list round a place. In *Russ. mejdu* signifies *among*. See *Class Ms. No. 21.27.*

1. Equally distant from the extremes; as the *middle* point of a line or circle; the *middle* station of life. The *middle* path or course is most safe.

2. Intermediate; intervening.

Will, seeking good, finds many *middle* ends. *Davies.*

Middle ages, the ages or period of time about equally distant from the decline of the Roman empire and the revival of letters in Europe, or from the eighth to the fifteenth century of the christian era.

MID-DLE, *n.* The point or part equally distant from the extremities.

See, there come people down by the *middle* of the land. *Judges ix.*

2. The time that passes, or events that happen between the beginning and the end. *Dryden.*

MID-DLE-AGED, *a.* Being about the middle of the ordinary age of man. A *mid-*

dle-aged man is so called from the age of thirty five or forty to forty five or fifty.

MID-DLE-EARTH, *n.* [*Sax. middan-earc.*] The world. *Obs.* *Shak.*

MID-DLEMOST, *a.* Being in the middle, or nearest the middle of a number of things that are near the middle. If a thing is in the middle, it cannot be more so, and in this sense the word is improper. But when two or more things are near the middle, one may be nearer than another.

MID-DLING, *a.* [*Sax. middlen.*] Of middle rank, state, size or quality; about equally distant from the extremes; moderate. Thus we speak of people of the *middling* class or sort, neither high nor low; of a man of *middling* capacity or understanding; a man of *middling* size; fruit of a *middling* quality.

MIDGE, *n.* [*Sax. myge, mygge.*] A gnat or flea. [*Not used.*]

MID-HEAVEN, *n.* The middle of the sky or heaven. *Milton.*

MID-LAND, *a.* Being in the interior country; distant from the coast or sea shore; as *midland* towns or inhabitants. *Howell. Hale.*

2. Surrounded by the sea; mediterranean. And on the *midland* sea the French had aw'd. *Dryden.*

MID-LEG, *n.* Middle of the leg. *Bacon.*

MID-MOST, *a.* Middle; as the *midmost* battles. *Dryden.*

MID-NIGHT, *n.* The middle of the night; twelve o'clock at night.

MID-NIGHT, *a.* Being in the middle of the night; as *midnight* studies. *Bacon.*

2. Dark as midnight; very dark; as *midnight* gloom.

MID-RIF, *n.* [*Sax. midhrife*; *mid* and *hrife*, the belly.]

In *anatomy*, the diaphragm; the muscle which divides the trunk into two cavities, the thorax and abdomen. *Quincy.*

MID-SEA, *n.* The Mediterranean sea. *Dryden.*

MID-SHIP, *a.* Being or belonging to the middle of a ship; as a *midship* beam.

MID-SHIPMAN, *n.* In *ships of war*, a kind of naval cadet, whose business is to second the orders of the superior officers and assist in the necessary business of the ship, particularly in managing the sails, that he may be trained to a knowledge of the machinery, discipline and operations of ships of war, and qualified for naval service. *Mar. Diet.*

MID-SHIPS, *adv.* In the middle of a ship; properly *amidships*.

MIDST, *n.* [*contracted from middest*, the superlative of *mid*.] The middle.

There is nothing said or done in the *midst* of the play, which might not have been placed in the beginning. *Dryden.*

The phrase, in the *midst*, often signifies involved in, surrounded or overwhelmed by, or in the thickest part, or in the depths of; as in the *midst* of afflictions, troubles or cares; in the *midst* of our contemplations; in the *midst* of the battle; in the *midst* of pagan darkness and error; in the *midst* of gospel light; in the *midst* of the ocean; in the *midst* of civil dissensions.

From the *midst*, from the middle, or from among. *Deut. xviii.*

MIDST, *adv.* In the middle.

On earth, join all ye creatures to extol Him first, Him last, Him *midst*, and without end. *Milton.*

MID-STREAM, *n.* The middle of the stream. *Dryden.*

MID-SUMMER, *n.* The middle of summer; the summer solstice, about the 21st of June. *Swift. Gay.*

MID-WARD, *adv.* *Midst.* [*Not in use.*]

MID-WAY, *n.* The middle of the way or distance. Paths indirect, or in the *midway* faint. *Milton.*

MID-WAY, *a.* Being in the middle of the way or distance; as the *midway* air. *Shak.*

MID-WAY, *adv.* In the middle of the way or distance; half way. She met his glance *midway.* *Dryden.*

MID-WIFE, *n.* [*supposed by Junius and Skinner to be meedwife*, a woman that has a reward. This is probably a mistake. The word is a compound of *mid*, with, and *wif*, a woman; in analogy with the *L. obstetrix*, from *obsto*, *obstiti*, to stand before. The Dutch use *vroederouwe*, a wise or skillful woman. The Danish equivalent word is *iordemoder*, earth-mother; the Swedish, *iord-gumma*. The Spanish and Portuguese word is *comadre*; *co* for *L. cum*, with, and *madre*, mother, which is precisely analogous to *midwife*.]

A woman that assists other women in childbirth.

MID-WIFE, *v. i.* To perform the office of midwife.

MID-WIFE, *v. t.* To assist in childbirth.

MID-WIFERY, *n.* The art or practice of assisting women in childbirth; obstetrics.

2. Assistance at childbirth.

3. Help or cooperation in production. *Stepney.*

MID-WINTER, *n.* The middle of winter, or the winter solstice, December 21. As the severity of winter in North America falls in January and February, the word ordinarily denotes this period, or some weeks after the winter solstice.

MI-EMITE, *n.* Granular *miemite* is a sub-variety of magnesium limestone, first found at Miemo, in Tuscany. It occurs massive, or crystalized in flat, double, three-sided pyramids. Its color is light green or greenish white. *Jameson. Cyc.*

MIEN, *n.* [*Fr. mine*; *Dan. Sw. id.*; *Arm. man*; *Coru. mein*, the face; *lec. mind*, image. See *Man*.]

Look; air; manner; external appearance; carriage; as a lofty *mien*; a majestic *mien*. *Waller. Pope.*

MIFF, *n.* A slight degree of resentment. [*Colloquial.*]

MIF-FED, *a.* Slightly offended. [*In Norman French, mefet is offense or misdeed, and misset, misdome; mes and faire; whence meffere, to do mischief. But qu. whether this is the English miff.*]

MIGHT, *n. pret. of may.* Had power or liberty. He *might* go, or *might* have gone.

2. It sometimes denotes *was possible*, implying ignorance of the fact in the speaker. Orders *might* have been given for the purpose.