AX, n. improperly written axe. [Sax. ax. 2. An established principle in some art or Always; forever; continually; for an indef eax, ase; Sw. yxe; L. ascia; Gr. agun It. azza: Eth. OP hatzi, an ax; or Ar

ב hazza, to cut; Ch. and Syr. מינא an

ax.1

An instrument usually of iron, for hewing timber and chopping wood. It consists of a head with an arching edge, and a helve or handle. The ax is of two kinds, the broad ax for hewing, and the narrow ax for rough-hewing and cutting. The hatch-

et is a small ax to be used with one hand. 1. The straight line, real or imaginary, pass-AXAYA'CAT, n. A fly in Mexico, whose eggs, deposited on rushes and flags, in large quantities, are sold and used as a 2. In geometry, a straight line in a plain figsort of caviare, called ahuauhtli. This was a dish among the Mexicans, as it now is among the Spaniards.

AXESTONE, AXESTONE, of jade; less hard than nephrite; of a leek or grass green, olive 4. green or greenish gray color. It occurs amorphous, or in rolled fragments. found chiefly in New-Zealand and the S Sea isles, where it is used by the rude natives for axes and other instruments. Ure. Cleaveland.

AX IFORM, a. [L. axis, and forma.] In the Encyc. form of an axis.

AX'IL, n. [L. axilla; Ir. asgal; Fr. aisselle; D. oxel, the armpit; Ch. and Heb. אצל, to separate or set apart; whence אצילי, arm-

pits.]

1. The armpit; a cavity under the upper part of the arm or shoulder.

In botany, the space or angle formed by a branch with the stem, or by a leaf with the stem or branch. Milne, Darwin. AX'ILLAR, AX'ILLARY, a. Pertaining to the arm-Axillary leaves are those which proceed

from the angle formed by the stem and Martyn. Milne. AX INITE, n. A mineral which sometimes

occurs in lamellar masses, but commonly in crystals, whose general form is that of very oblique rhomb, or rather, four-sided prism, so flattened that some of its edges become thin and sharp, like that of an ax whence its name, Gr. αξωη. This is the thumerstone of Kirwan. It has been sometimes called yanolite and violet short.

Haiiy. Brongniart. Cleaveland. AXINOM'ANCY, n. [Gr. αξινη, an ax, and μαντεια, divination.]

Among the ancients, a species of divination, by means of an ax or hatchet, performed by laying an agate-stone on a red hot hatchet, or by fixing a hatchet on a round stake, so as to be poised; then the names of those suspected were repeated, and he at whose name the hatchet moved, was pronounced guilty. Encyc.

AX IOM, n. [Gr. αξιωμα, authority, an authoritative sentence, or that which is assumed, from aξιος, worthy, αξιοώ, to think worthy, to esteem; Eng. to ask, [to ax; that which is asked, sought or esteemed.]

1. A self evident truth, or a proposition whose truth is so evident at first sight, that no process of reasoning or demonstration can make it plainer; as, "the whole is greater than a part." Johnson. Encyc.

science; a principle received without new proof; as, "things which are equal to the AYLE, n. In law, a grandfather. [See same thing, are equal to one another.'

Encue. AXIOMAT'IC, AXIOMAT'ICAL, \{ a. Pertaining to an ax- AZ'AROLE, n. [Fr.] A species of thorn the three grained mediar, a species ture of self evident truths or received Pref. to Bacon's Aphorisms. principles. AX IS, n. plu. axes. [L.; Gr. αξων; Russ. os, or osi; Sax. ax; Fr. axe, or aissieu; G. achse ; D. as ; It. asse ; Sp. exe ; Port. exo,

ing through a body, on which it revolves or may revolve : as the aris of the earth.

ure, about which it revolves to produce a

Clarigero. 3. In conic sections, a right line dividing the section into two equal parts, and cutting all its ordinates at right angles. In mechanics, the axis of a balance is that

line about which it moves, or rather turns The axis of oscillation is a right line parallel to the horizon passing through the center, about which a pendulum vi-

The axis in peritrochio is a wheel concentric with the base of a cylinder, and movable with it about its axis

In optics, a particular ray of light from any object which falls perpendicularly on the

6. In architecture, spiral axis is the axis of a twisted column spirally drawn in order to trace the circumvolutions without.

Axis of the Ionic capital is a line passing perpendicularly through the middle of the eve of the volute

The axis of a vessel is an imaginary line passing through the middle of it, perpen dicular to its base, and equally distant from AZ/OTE, n. [Gr. a priv. and ζωη, life, or

In botany, axis is a taper column in the center of some flowers or catkins, about which the other parts are disposed.

In anatomy, axis is the name of the second verteber of the neck; it has a tooth which enters into the first verteber, and this tooth is by some called the axis. Encyc.

A piece of timber or bar of iron, fitted for

insertion in the hobs or naves of wheels, on which the wheels turn.

AX'OLOTE, n. A water lizard found in the Mexican lake, about eight inches in length, sometimes much larger. The skin is black and soft. It swims with its feet, which re semble those of a frog. It has a periodical evacuation of blood, like the human fe- 2. The liquor of sublimated quicksilver; male. Clavigero.

AYE, adv. [G. D. Dan. Sw. ja, pron. ya; Dan. eja; Corn. ia; Ar. ya; Fr. oui. It may be a contracted word.]

Yes, yea, a word expressing assent, or an affirmative answer to a question. It is used also to enforce the sense of what is asserted, equivalent to even so, truly, certainly.

AYE, adv. [Sax. aa, a, or awa; Gr. ast: Amh. ai, continually; D. eeuw, an age; Lazuli.]

Goth. aiw, an age, eternity; L. avum, Of a sky-blue; resembling the clear blue which, without its termination, is av, aw; probably a contracted word, W. haug.]

YLE, a.

Besayle.]

VRY. [See Aerie.] A'YRY.

the three grained medlar, a species of

cratægus. AZERITA, A species of plum or pru-AZERITA, nus. Fam. of Plants. AZERIT

AZ'IMUTH, n. [Ar. سهت samatha, to move

or go towards ; ..., (L. semita,) a way

or path; with a prefix.] 1. In astronomy, an arch of the horizon intercepted between the meridian of the place. and the azimuth or vertical circle, passing through the center of the object

2. Magnetical azimuth, an arch of the horizon, intercepted between the azimuth or vertical circle, passing through the center of any heavenly body, and the magnetic meridian. This is found by observing the object with an azimuth compass. 3. Azimuth compass, an instrument for find-

ing either the magnetic azimuth or amplitude of an heavenly object.

4. Azimuth dial, a dial whose stile or gnomon is at right angles to the plane of the horizon. 5. Azimuths or vertical circles, are great

circles intersecting each other in the zenith and nadir, and cutting the horizon at right angles. Encyc. Chambers. Bailey. Johnson.

On charts, these azimuths are represented by rhumbs, and on the globe, by the quadrant of altitude, when screwed in the zenith.

ζωτιχος, vital.]

A species of gas, called also mephitic air, and atmospheric mephitis, on account of its fatal effects upon animal life. It is tasteless, and inodorous: it exists in common air, mixed with oxygen, and constitutes about seventy-nine hundredth parts of atmospheric air. It may be obtained, in large quantities, from the muscular fibers of animals. Combined with hydrogen, it forms volatile alkali; and it enters into the composition of most animal substances. It is the radical of nitric acid, and is now called nitrogen gas, or nitrogen.

AZ/OTH, n. Among alchimists, the first principle of metals; the mercury of metals; a universal medicine. Obs.

AZOT'IC, a. Pertaining to azote; fatal to animal life.

AZ'OTITE, n. A salt formed by a combination of the protoxyd of azote, or nitrous oxyd, with an alkali. Thomson. AZ'URE, a. azh'ur. [Persic, lazurd, blue; Fr. azur; Sp. azul, or azur; It. azzurro;

W. asur, blue. Hence lazuli, in Lapis

color of the sky

AZ'URE, n. ash'ur. The fine blue color of