

# **SOME ILL-USED WORDS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649008094

Some ill-used words by Alfred Ayres

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Cover @ 2017

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**ALFRED AYRES**

**SOME ILL-USED  
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# SOME ILL-USED WORDS

*Edue*

BY

ALFRED AYRES

AUTHOR OF

THE ORTHOËPIST, THE VERBALIST, ACTING AND ACTORS,  
THE MENTOR, THE ESSENTIALS OF ELOCUTION, ETC.

As there is never but one best way, so there is never but one best word



NEW YORK  
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY  
1908



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1460  
A9

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*Every writer should aim to preserve the individuality of the words he uses; he should not allow any word to trench on the domain of any other word. This he should do in the interest of clearness; in this way only can he avoid ambiguity. The so-called "new meanings" are the product either of a restricted vocabulary or of a lack of painstaking.*

*Familiarity with the examples here gathered should do something, it would seem, toward mending the ways of the careless.*





## PREFACE

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THIS book is levelled, specially, at some half dozen errors that are made by wellnigh every one that uses the English language.

Who, for example, does not misuse the auxiliary verbs, and the words *anticipate*, *anxious*, *financial*, and *hurry*; and who does not over-use the words *former* and *latter*? Then who does not use a certain ponderous locution in which a noun is made to do duty as a verb? And then there are not a few that persist in using that repulsive construction in which there are two nominatives and only one verb?

Something about these words and phrases, and some little besides, is what herein will be found.

A. A.

NEW YORK, *January, 1901.*

