

**THE LICENSED TRADERS' DICTIONARY OF
WORDS AND TERMS USED IN
CONNECTION WITH THEIR
CALLING AND IN CONTROVERSIES
RELATING TO IT: BEING A TECHNICAL
THESAURUS; PP. 3-59**

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The Licensed Traders' Dictionary of Words and Terms Used in Connection with Their Calling and in controversies relating to it: being a technical thesaurus; pp. 3-59 by Albert B. Deane

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ALBERT B. DEANE

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P R E F A C E .



WE now publish in a handy form an enlarged Dictionary we have had prepared, dealing with words and terms relating to the Licensed Victuallers' calling, and the controversies of the time, in which the Licensed Trader is compelled to engage. In the *Licensed Victuallers' Official Annual* we have yearly given such a list of words, their derivations and meanings as are common in the trade ; but this could hardly be considered to be so complete as we could desire, or so comprehensive as to cover all the requirements of the case. Our new Dictionary is, so far as we know, the first attempt that has been seriously made to give to the trade such a technical and literary handbook as it has long required. Our scheme has not been in any sense laid down on controversial lines ; we have followed rather literary and technical traditions. Thus in each case our object has been, first to give the word, then its etymology, in the root from which it is derived, then its ordinary meaning as in general use, with examples drawn from standard authors and authorities as to the sense in which they regard it. Where a word has two meanings, or even more, we have given these in full, and in cases in which words have been corrupted from their general and proper sense, as is too often the case in heated controversy, we have not scrupled to give their real and natural meaning rather than that which the partisan would prefer. Where a word is in the same spelling in its English as in its foreign form, we do not repeat it in its root, but merely indicate its source, as (F.) French ; (G.) German. Explanations of very common words, such as "tap," "cork," "wine-glass," the meaning of which is apparent on the surface, are not given, nor are the words themselves, as it is of little use in a survey of this kind to catalogue obvious, simple,

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and every-day definitions which the "man in the street" can understand and explain quite as well as the student or the philosopher, that is for all common purposes. We have given many words relating to old usages and customs because of their literary and historic interest, and, indeed, we have endeavoured to explain them at greater length than ordinary words, because of the glimpses they give us of the manners and habits of our ancestors, or the predecessors in our ancient avocation. Words of especial interest or import we have treated at some considerable length. Such essay-like descriptions may give our Dictionary in places an encyclopedic appearance, but we need not apologise to our intelligent readers for discursive vagaries which tend, we may hope, to the general enlightenment as to trade and social customs. In the compilation of this Trade Dictionary we have been astonished, as we have been many a time and oft in related studies, by the general association of the inn and inn customs, not only with the social life, but with the literature and religious ritual of all countries in all ages. Indeed, if we took the inn literature out of the great books that the world has seen, the attenuation that would result would be so remarkable that little worthy of the name of literature would be left. Let the curious reader thus think of his Anacreon, his Homer, his Virgil, his Dante, his Cervantes, his Boccaccio, his Shakspeare, Milton, Burns, Barham, Longfellow, or, indeed, all the great ancient and modern writers. The extracts from the authorities we quote in giving the meanings of words are in themselves an adequate adverse comment on the modern puritan crusade, as insensate as it is silly and malignant. Those authorities comprise the names of writers so diverse in temperament, scholarship and race as Macaulay, Beaumont, Fletcher, Gladstone, Burns, the writers of the Anglo-Norman carols, Gay, Barham, Shakspeare, Carlyle, Borrow, *The Spectator*, Ben Jonson, Milton, Dryden, Cowper, Blake, Chaucer, W. Irving, Tennyson, Denham, Sterne, Pliny, Johnson, Motley, the *Book of Job*, Pope, the *Epistle to the Ephesians*, South, Thomson, Pepys, and many others. Of course, these references by no means exhaust the literary authorities that might be drawn upon, for probably there is no writer of any note who has not dealt

directly or indirectly with the subject matters of our theme, for the field of our observation is universal humanity. Wherever men are or have been, the inn or its equivalent has or had its place, and men have drunken alcoholic beverages as they have eaten their daily food, whether the latter was of bread, beef, or more Corinthian edibles, or of the uncooked fruits and productions of the earth.

In some instances, remembering the close relation there is between the inn, the inn kitchen and the inn yard, we have not scrupled to give the meaning of some words which have a relation to these inn auxiliaries. Where the words are curious, relate to facts, or to the refreshment of man or beast, it seems reasonable that they should be included, especially if their origin is obscure, or their meaning quaint. An example of this may be found in such words as "Sally Lunn," "bait," "tiffin," etc. We have also where necessary given such explanations of words, as in the case of "alcohol," etc., as modern science affords, being assured that accuracy of knowledge is as much desired by our trade readers as by any other class in the community. Brewing terms naturally come in a Licensed Trader's word book, as formerly the licensed victualler was always a brewer, as well as a vendor of ale, as indeed he is to-day in many instances. Terms relating to the vintner's calling are necessarily included for similar reasons. Religious terms relating to wines or ritual, or to vessels used in religious services are necessarily included in our study.

It is proper to say in this introduction that our main authority for our etymologies has been Webster's *International Dictionary*, as revised by Noah Porter, D.D., LL.D. We have not, however, followed the American lexicographer slavishly, for there is abundant evidence that even his great work has been coloured by modern social heretical tendencies. In cases where his meaning has been marred by a puritan bias we have not scrupled to correct it. Where it is brief we have expanded it; and where it does not seem clear and adequate we have added to it, and made it more lucent. We can say all this without any feeling that we are laying ourselves open to a charge of egotism, for we do not pretend that our learning and capacity are in any way

way equal to those of this recognised and great authority; only that, like Homer, a great man may occasionally err, and that a dictionary dealing with the sum total of words in a national language necessarily has limitations which do not belong to a similar work of a more partial and particular character. We need not say we have not followed in all cases the American doctor's orthography. We allude to his omission of the "u" in such words as "honor," "Savior," etc., or like examples which we have given in words explained or quoted in our limited list.

As to the abbreviations used, we may explain in the grammatical part—*n.* stands for noun; *a.* for adjective; *v.i.* for verb intransitive, and *v.t.* for verb transitive, and *pl.n.* for plural noun. Ar. is the abbreviation of Arabic; A.S., Anglo-Saxon; C., Celtic; D., Dutch; Dan., Danish; F., French; G., German; Gael., Gaelic; Gr., Greek; Hind., Hindustanee; Ir., Irish; It., Italian; L., Latin; Old D., Old Danish; O.E., Old English; O.F., Old French; Per., Persian; Por., Portuguese; Russ., Russian; Sp., Spanish; Sw., Swedish; W., Welsh.

In consulting our pages, we would ask our readers to keep in mind such particulars as we have chosen to state in our introduction, as necessary to the full and thorough understanding of the work which we have taken in hand in their behalf, and which, as we have already stated, so far as we are aware, has never been put before the public in a similar form, or on so comprehensive a scale.

ALBERT B. DEANE,

*Editor of the Licensing World; the
Licensed Victuallers' Official Annual, &c., &c.*

March, 1903.

A.

Absinthe. *n.* [F.] A strong drink, mainly consumed in Paris and throughout France. It is made from wormwood and other kindred plants, with an admixture of brandy and alcohol.

Abstain. *v.t.* To hold one's self aloof, forbear or refrain voluntarily. Now used mainly in reference to indulgence in the appetite for intoxicating liquors, though its proper meaning is to abstain from any undue indulgence of the passions, appetites, or desires.

Not a few "abstained" from voting.—*Macaulay*.

Abstainer. *n.* One who abstains from undue indulgence. One who takes no intoxicating liquors. The latter is a modern use.

Abstemious. *n.* and *a.* [L. *abs* and *temetum*.] According to Fabius and Aulus Gellius this word is formed of these two Latin terms. *Temetum* was a strong intoxicating drink, similar to the Greek *methe*. "Abstemious" is now generally used as a synonym for "Temperate."

Abstinence. *n.* [O.E. *absteynen*.] The virtue of refraining

from any undue indulgence or exercise of the appetites or passions. Used in a corrupt sense and with a limited meaning by certain modern moralists and loose writers with reference to abstinence from intoxicating liquors only. In the latter sense "Total Abstinence" is the proper term, though even in this case explanatory words are necessary to a correct definition.

The authority of the wisest heathens, especially that of Plato in the *Laws*, is wholly against "abstinence" from wine.—*Ruskin*.

Adam's Ale. *n.* Water is spoken of by this description from the supposition that Adam in Paradise had nothing else to drink.

Adulterate. *v.t.* [L. *adulteratus*.] To corrupt, debase, or make impure by an admixture of a foreign or baser substance, as to adulterate food, drink, drugs, etc.

The present war has "adulterated" our tongue with strange words.—*Spectator*.

Aerated Waters. *pl. n.* [F. *aerer*.] Waters artificially aerated or charged with gas; usually with carbonic acid gas, formerly called fixed air.

His sparkling sallies bubbled up as from "aerated" natural fountains.—*Carlyle*.

Alcohol. *n.* [Sp.] The spirituous or intoxicating element of fermented or distilled liquors. It is extracted by distillation from various vegetable juices, and infusions of a saccharine nature. The alcohol in spirits is distilled from wines or from pure malt. It consists of varying strengths of ethyl hydroxide, and the chemical formula is C_2H_5OH .

Alcoholometer. *n.* An instrument for determining the proportion of alcohol contained in any liquid.

Ale. *n.* [A.S. *ælu.*] An intoxicating beverage made from an infusion of malt by fermentation, and the addition of a bitter, usually hops.

"Ale," the nectar of the gods.

Glæntone.

O, guid "ale" comes, and guid
ale goes,
Guid ale gars me sell my hose,
Sell my hose and pawn my shoon;
Guid ale keeps my heart aboon.

Burns.

Ale is the drink of Anglo-Saxons all over the world.

English "ale" that drives out
thinking,
Prince of liquors old or new,
Every neighbour shares the bowl,
Drinks of the spicy liquor deep,
Drinks his fill without control,
Till he drown his care in sleep.

Anglo-Norman Carol.

Ale-bench. *n.* A bench or backed form inside or outside an ale-house.

Aleberry. *n.* [O.E. *ælebrey.*] A beverage formerly made of

boiling ale with spices, sugar, and sops of bread.

Their "ale berries," candies,
possets.

Beaumont and Fletcher.

Ale-conner. *n.* [*ale* and O.E. *cunnen.*] Originally an official appointed to look after the goodness of ale or beer; also one of the officers chosen by the liverymen of London to inspect the measures used in public houses, but the office is a sinecure. The ale-conner was also called ale-taster. The Corporation of London paid last year the sum of £42 for the services of four ale-conners.

Ale-draper. *n.* A tapster or seller of ale.

No other occupation have I but
to be an "ale draper."

H. Chettle.

Ale Drapery. *n.* The selling of ale. The term is now obsolete.

Alegar. *n.* Sour beer or ale; vinegar made of ale.

Ale-house. *n.* A house where ale is licensed to be sold. In the time of Charles I. most licensed houses bore this name.

To gain but your smile were I
Sardanapalus,
I'd descend from my throne, and
be boots at an "ale-house."

Barham.

Dear mother, dear mother, the
church is cold;
But the "ale-house" is healthy,
and pleasant, and warm.

Blake.