

father who is a "pickle." This by no means exhausts the possibilities.

We may describe a person in terms of our sensations. A lady is spoken of as "cold," a friend as "warm." A boss may be "hard," or an employe "soft." An entertainer may turn out to be "wet." And so it goes.

### From the Body

The body itself provides some vivid descriptive terms. Everyone knows what is meant when a man is referred to as "just a heel." Here are some others that may not be quite so familiar: bloodless, brainless, dry-bones, fist, high-hearted, high-stomached, brainsick.

Early medicine, with its theories of the "humors" of the body, brought with it terms, then scientific, now an integral part of the common speech and indispensable in daily use. The word "humorous" itself has this origin although its meaning has greatly changed during the passing of the years. Then there are "good-humored" and "bad-humored," which have clung more closely to their original significance. Here are some more: sanguine, phlegmatic, choleric, melancholy, hearty, heartless, cordial, hypochondriacal with its modern abbreviation "hipped," temperament, cold-blooded.

And that leads us to astrology and the ancient idea that the heavenly bodies influenced those born while they were in the ascendancy. So we have these words: lunatic, jovial, saturnine, mercurial, martial, and ill-starred.

Modern science, and especially, of course, psychology, has contributed a generous share of terms in recent years. In this group are such words as these: anthropoid, prophylactic, atavistic, introverted, extroverted, neurotic, regressive, psychasthenic, eidetic, cyclothymic, schizoid, psychoneurotic, psychopathic, and so on.

Religion has been generous in contributing to the list of available terms to apply to our neighbors.

What term is more universally useful and more expressive than the word "dunce"? That was first hurled at another person during the heated arguments of the days of the Protestant reformation and is derived from the name of Duns Scotus, great British medieval philosopher. Those days also brought us such excellent words as "malignant," "pernicious," "bigoted," and "fanatic." They have also bequeathed us the more complimentary terms: "pious," "sincere," and "precise."

### Scorn for Country

The feeling of superiority shared by all city-dwellers at the expense of their country cousins is reflected by the number of derogatory or semi-derogatory terms connected with the country and parallel complimentary terms derived from words for city.

Bumpkin, rustic, countrified, boorish, boor, churl, churlish, villain, clodhopper, bog-trotter, hayseed, yokel, rube! Those are a few of the country-derived words. On the other side of the

picture are such smooth words as urbane and metropolitan.

But to return to the field of politics and war, here is a rich opportunity for the coining of new and vivid terms for other humans. Red-blooded words they are too, and full of meaning; fighting words, words to make the heart beat faster and the fists fly.

### Crusades Contributed

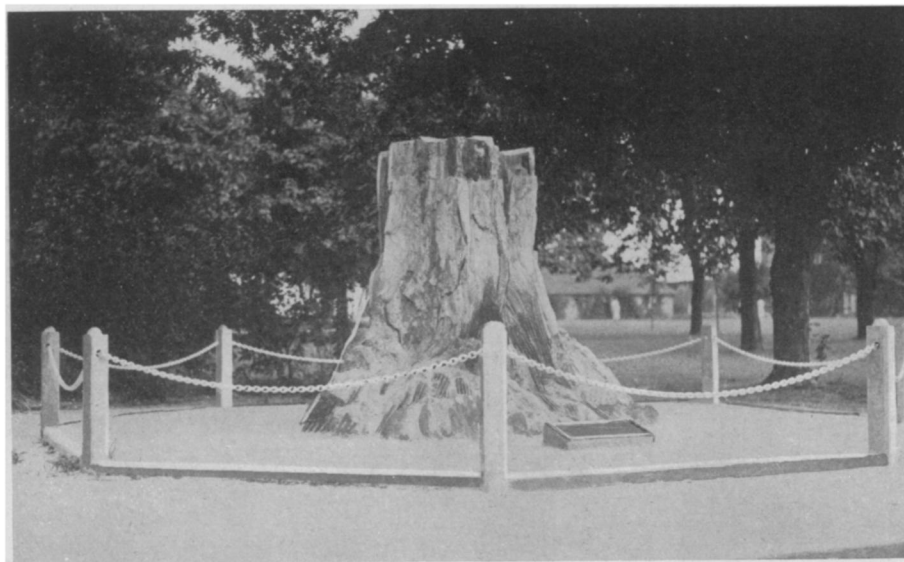
From the days of the Crusades we have inherited the punch-loaded words, assassin and miscreant. The former of these originally meant merely hashish-eaters, but another and richer meaning was read into it by the soldiers of that day, and with this richer meaning it has become a permanent part of the English language. Miscreant, similarly, had an original meaning of misbeliever, but today it is retained with a meaning more like mis-behaver.

In our own day we have learned new words or new meanings for old ones. We have "chiseler," "braintruster," and "boondogger."

Campaigns of bygone years gave us pussyfooter, mollycoddle, mugwump, carpetbagger, muckraker, dry, pacifist, scofflaw, snooper, palm-greaser, propagandist.

The Great War and the recent "red-baiting" have given us slacker, hyphenate, Hun, Boche, red, Bolshevist and Bolshevik.

But all these are but a few of the possible classifications for this strange dictionary of human appraisal. The authors  
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### HONORS GEOLOGIST

On the campus of Oklahoma State Teachers' College the memory of the late Dr. David White, noted scientist of the U. S. Geological Survey and trustee of Science Service, is preserved in this giant petrified tree stump.

#### GEOLOGY

## 350,000,000-Year-Old Monument to Geologist

**A**N EMINENT American geologist, the late Dr. David White, has been given a most fitting memorial monument on the campus of the State Teachers' College at Ada, Okla. It is the base of a petrified trunk of one of the oldest trees in the world, known to scientists as Callixylon, dating back to Devonian time, 350,000,000 years ago.

When the petrified tree was found, about 20 miles from Ada, John Fitts, a friend and admirer of Dr. White, arranged to have the mass of stone moved and set up on the campus.

Before his death in 1935, Dr. White was principal geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, curator of paleobotany of the U. S. National Museum, and a trustee of Science Service.

Science News Letter, October 17, 1936