

# Where Did You First See These Words?

*Lexicography*

The New English Dictionary on Historical Principles, commonly known as the Oxford Dictionary, aims to include a literal quotation of the first use in print of each word. The dictionary has now completed the alphabet, but a supplement is being prepared. The editor, Dr. C. T. Onions, is asking the help of readers in general for information as to the first appearance in print of the new words being defined. From the list of the *Desiderata* of the Dictionary, we copy the following words in which our readers are likely to be interested:

accelerate (an engine)	1902
accelerator	1900
ace (airman)	1918
acetate silk	1925
acetylene gas	1895
acidosis	1905
across, put it or get it	1921
adenoids	1901
adrenal	1875
adsorb	1923
agar	1889
aileron	1909
aircraft	1907
airman	1910
alcoholic (noun)	1907
all in (exhausted)	
alpinism	1884
alternating current	1882

## Girls Most Credulous

*Psychology*

Girls take more stock in fortune-telling than boys, whether of the tea cup, palm reading or playing card variety, according to a report made to the *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*. This greater credulity of the so-called weaker sex showed up in tests with some 6,000 school children, made by Dr. Harvey Lehman and Paul A. Witty of Ohio University and the University of Kansas.

Girls of all ages took greater interest in dabbling in the occult than boys, the peak being reached at around the age of thirteen years. Boys tend to outgrow their superstitious leanings as they approach manhood but girls do not, the investigators found.

They suggest that this state of affairs may be due to the greater importance of emotions in the life of a woman and also to the restricted range of feminine activities. These forces, it was stated, may cause women to fall back on superstition for guidance more frequently than men.

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alternator	1893
amatol (high explosive)	1918
amberite (explosive)	1893
ammonal (explosive)	1903
amperage	1901
amplifier	1919
amylopsin	1886
anabiosis	1890
anabolism	1889
anastigmatic (lens)	1897
animated picture or photograph	1898
announcer (broadcasting)	1923
anopheles	1899
anthropic	1884
anthropometer	1881
anti-body	1901
anti-clockwise	1909
antipyrim	1884
antitoxin, -ic	1892
aplanat (lens)	1895
apochromatic (lens)	1887
arc-lamp, -light, lighting	1882
arteriosclerosis	1890
ask out (invite)	
astrophysics	1890
atichoo, atchoo (sneeze)	
atmospherics (wireless)	1915
attune (wireless)	1901
audion	1915
auto (automobile)	1902
autobus	1900
autocar	1895
automobile (adjective)	1886
automobile (noun)	1895

automobile (verb)	1898
auto-suggestion	1890
aviate	1900
aviation	1887
aviator (aeroplane pilot)	1896
aviculturist	1904
bacillicide	1890
back-fire (in an engine)	1897
back number	1888
bacteriological	1886
baking-powder	1878
ballyhoo	1914
bargain-counter	
barn dance	1895
barocyclonometer	1906
base hospital	1895
bats in the belfry, to have	1927
batty (balmy, dotty)	1922
be long, now we shan't	1897

The date attached is that of the earliest quotation that has been so far found. If you know of any earlier employment of the term, it would be a favor to the Dictionary if you would send in the reference, copying the passage accurately with full details as to the author, title, date, and page, etc., following the form used for the quotations in the Dictionary. Mail the slip to the Secretary, Clarendon Press, Oxford, England, marked O. E. D., or in care of Science Service, Washington, D. C.

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## Tornado Record Exceeds Normal

*Meteorology*

The tornado record for the first quarter of 1929 as shown by information gathered by the U. S. Weather Bureau promises another unusual year for these disastrous storms.

Last year more tornadoes occurred in the United States than during any previous year for which the government meteorologists had gathered data. The record for 1928 nearly doubled the usual number of 90 to 100 a year. But the loss of life due to tornadoes in 1928 was exceedingly small and the property loss was far below that of the worst years.

In the first two months of this year 10 tornadoes caused 32 deaths, compared with only four tornadoes and no deaths in January and February of 1928. March kept up the unfavorable condition with some half dozen whirlers and a dozen or so of deaths. And the Arkansas tornado toll gives April the beginnings of a bad showing.

As May and June are the months

that usually show the largest damage from tornadoes, meteorologists feel that more storms and suffering must be expected.

The tornado is born of currents of air above the ground that differ in direction and come in contact. A condition of warm, moist air near the ground overlaid with cold air sets up violent heat transfer and overturning of the atmosphere. A great whirl or vortex results releasing the pent-up energy of the air. Not always does the funnel-shaped cloud reach the ground, but when it does the low pressure of its center explodes houses and the wind about the vortex prostrates all that it encounters. Usually a tornado moves east or northeastward at the rate of 25 to 50 miles per hour. If you see one coming at you, run as hard as possible toward the northwest, as, due to the small path, a few feet may mean the difference between danger and safety.

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