Where Did You First See These Words?

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:

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

Science News-Letter, April 10, 1929

Tornado Record Exceeds Normal

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 by 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 35 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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