

(pronounced *Gloster*), *Leicester* (pronounced *Lester*), *fortnight* for *fourteenight*, and *since* for *sithens*.

(c) Initially—*lone* for *alone*, *drake* for *endrake*.

Change In Signification of Words.—We have learned that changes in the sound of words are largely due to inaccurate hearing, coupled with inaccurate reproduction. Words change in meaning after a somewhat similar fashion. As no two individuals can possibly have had the same experiences in life it will be evident that their stores of ideas must partake of the same difference. Thus any one of us may listen to a philosophical lecture, and come away none the wiser, although we seemed to be familiar with almost all the words employed. But were we really as familiar with them as we thought we were? "Subject," "object," "anger," "pity," "will," and a host of such words were used by the philosopher in a connection which only minds trained upon the same paths of thought could appreciate. In ordinary conversation we can manage to understand one another fairly well, because, roughly speaking, our experiences are the same. Yet we always put our own private interpretation, which is the measure of our private experience, on what we hear. Thus a dog fancier or a horse breeder speaks to us about his dogs or his horses. In a general way we know what a dog or a horse is, but we are far from receiving into our minds the ideas which those words embody with the fullness of meaning with which they were expressed. So we all by our individual experience contribute our share toward widening or narrowing the significance of words. Language lives and grows in this way. The vital principle of its growth at the outset was metaphorical extension. And that same principle is alive and astonishingly active to-day. We realize it most convincingly when some whim of the popular mind (originally the whim of some lucky individual) selects a familiar word, wrenches it from its usual meaning, and seizing metaphorically upon some characteristic of the word, foists upon it some new and daring interpretation. Thus slang acquires the dignity of a creative process.

If students would believe it, there is scarcely a more pleasurable and profitable recreation than half an hour with a good dictionary. Let us consult one, and see how some familiar words have gradually extended their meaning by this metaphorical process. The