

IV.—On Word-Building.

What a word is ultimately derived from is called its **Root**. The question of Roots is one of considerable difficulty. Examples have been given in the conjugation of the Verb *be*. The forms, *be*, *been*, etc., are derived from BIEU; *am*, *art*, etc., are derived from ES. What we can more easily determine is that modified form of the Root called the **Stem**, to which we add inflexions for the various purposes of Accidence; e.g., *love* is the stem of *loved*.

We build up words in two ways:

- (1) By joining words of independent meaning; e.g., *lion-hunter*, *break-water*.
 - (2) By the use of **prefixes** (Latin: *praefigere*, *to fasten before*), and **suffixes** (Latin: *suffigere*, *to fasten on*), which may or may not have separate existence.
- (1) Several examples of words formed by joining together two independent words have already been given. It will be noticed that in some cases both words are equally significant, e.g., *sunbeam*, *dogstar*, *freeman*; that in others the first qualifies the second, e.g., *finger-ring* (=ring for the finger), *walking-stick* (=stick for walking); that in others a change of accent alters the significance, e.g., *madhouse*, *black-bird*.
- (2) Prefixes and suffixes are of English, Latin and Greek origin. Those who study the classical languages will be able to identify those of classical origin, while, to students, who are not acquainted with these languages, committing the prefixes and suffixes to