DARRYL FRANCIS  
Hounslow, Middlesex, England

In the February 1969 issue of Word Ways, Dmitri Borgmann presented an article entitled "The Multiple-Letter Word Hunt" -- a search for the shortest English words containing exactly four of each letter of the alphabet. He suggested that I might like to compile a similar list of words containing five of each letter of the alphabet. Obviously, many of the words in such a list must be drawn from other reference works besides the Second and Third Editions of Webster’s Dictionary. My list (omitting the entries for J, Q and V) is given below:

ABRACADABRA, HUBBLE-BUBBLE, CIRCUMCRESCENCE, FUDDY-DUDDY, TELEMETERED, FLUFFY-RUFFLE, WIGGLE-WAGGLING, TSCHISCHLKHATHKHOAN, ILLIMITABILITY, KVICKKJOKK, LILLY-PILLY, NIMBO-MAMMATOCUMULUS, NONINTERVENTION, ORONOOKO, PEPPER-UPPER, TERROR-STIRRING, ASSESSES, TOTIPOTENTIALITY, UBURU-UKU, M’DAYWAWKAWNTWAWNS, EX-MAXIXE-EXECUTRIX, GRYFFYGRYYFFYGRYFFS, ZZZZZ.

Several of these require amplification. Tschischlkhathkhoan is an Indian tribe name listed in Frederick Webb Hodge’s Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico (Rowman and Littlefield, 1965). Kvirkjokk is a Swedish town listed in The Times Index-Gazetteer (London, 1965). Nimbo-mammatocumulus is a coinage -- a cloud possessing characteristics of both nimbus and mammatocumulus clouds. Alternatively, one may prefer the Websterian lexeme MULTIMAMMATE MOUSE. Pepper-upper is given in Berrey and van den Bark’s The American Thesaurus of Slang and Wentworth and Flexner’s Dictionary of American Slang, and refers to one who peps up. A shorter (but hyphenated) word containing five T’s is TIT-TAT-TOE. Uburu-uku is a Nigerian place-name listed in The Times Index-Gazetteer. M’daywawkawntwawns are Indians of the Mdewakanton tribe, listed in Hodge’s above-mentioned book. Ex-maxixe-executrix is a coinage suggested by Dmitri Borgmann. The word gryffygryffygryffs occurs about two-thirds of the way through Chapter 11 of Joyce’s Finnegans Wake. Zzzzz is a Los Angeles wake-up service mentioned in Dmitri Borgmann’s Beyond Language.