

# DR. ROBINSON'S DICTIONARY

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It is said that you can tell a man by the books he reads. More so, then, by the books he writes. In the case of William J. Robinson (1869-1936), Ph.G., M.D., consider these works:

Stories of Love and Life, 1913  
Sexual Impotence, 1913  
Woman -- Her Sex and Love Life, 1917  
A Clergyman's Son, 1921  
The Humanitarian Calendar and Daily Maxim Book, 1929  
The World's Best Books, 1929  
The Oldest Profession in the World and its Future, 1930  
The Legalization of Abortion, 1933  
The Maniac Hitler and his Song, 1933.

Dr. Robinson wrote 34 books in all and also found time to be lecturer on materia medica at the Board of Pharmacy Institute, New York City, and perform as editor of the American Journal of Sexology and Psychoanalysis.

But it is his last book that will interest logophiles the most -- Robinson's Medical and Sex Dictionary, Eugenics Publishing Company, 1933. It contains nearly 4000 entries, which makes it about two-thirds the size of Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary, a work it is very similar to. A major difference, however, is that Dr. Robinson does not consider his words "unusual, obscure, or preposterous". As examples, entries common to both dictionaries are given below. All main entries in Robinson are capitalized initially and no pronunciation key is given.

**CIVESTITISM:** A morbid desire to put on the dresses one wore in childhood. [In Byrne, "clothing" is substituted for "dresses".]

**DIPPOLDISM:** Sadism, particularly of men toward boys. So named from Dippold, a German teacher who brutally mistreated boys entrusted to his care.

**FROTTEURS:** Rubbers. Perverts who get sexual satisfaction by rubbing against people of the other sex.

**GODEMICHE:** Artificial imitations of the penis, made of wood, rubber, etc.

**MISONEISM:** Dislike of new ideas or new words. Extreme reactionism.

**PAGISM:** [In Byrne, PAGEISM.] A phase of masochism in which the man humiliates himself, referring to himself as his lady's page or slave.

Neither GODEMICHE nor DIPPOLDISM appear in the medical dictionaries of Stedman (hereafter S), Dorland (D) or Taber (T). Nor do

they occur in NI2, NI3, F&W or the OED. MISONEISM appears in S and the rest can be found, for instance, in NI2.

Robinson's dictionary is not listed in Mrs. Byrne's bibliography. Indeed, it is extremely unlikely she was aware of the work since it is probable she would then have included:

BRADYPHRENIA: (NI2) Very slow mentality.

BRAGUETTE: (NI2) A breeches-flap formerly worn by men to call attention to their genital organs.

CACODOROUS: (OED) Having a foul odor.

CHORDEE: (S) Correctly used for the type of erection which is accompanied by a curving of the penis downward, and is so painful that the sufferer in his agony sometimes breaks it. Also applied to long lasting painful erections occurring in gonorrhoea.

CLERGYMAN'S SORE-THROAT: (T) A granular form of pharyngitis, due to too much talking.

CICISBEAT: [CICISBEO, NI2.] A male friend that the wife kept with the permission of the husband.

FETOR EX ORE: (S) A bad odor from the mouth. Bromopnea, halitosis.

HOUSEMAID'S KNEE: (T) An inflammation of the bursa of the kneecap, from scrubbing floors on the knees. We don't see such a condition nowadays.

LINGAM: (NI2) An artificial penis made of wood, stone, ivory or iron, which among some savage races was pushed into the vaginas of young girls in order to deflower them. The savage and primitive races did not put such value on virginity as modern society does.

LOGORRHEA: (S) Abnormal desire to talk continually.

MIXOSCOPIA: (T) Practically the same as Voyeurism: sexual excitement from watching homosexual or heterosexual sexual acts.

TRICHOPHAGIA: (T) A morbid habit of eating hair.

VORONOFF'S OPERATION: (T) Grafting the testicles of young chimpanzees into old men. Alleged to possess the power of rejuvenation.

There are several other words of logological interest. As reported in the August 1982 issue of *Word Ways*, SALPINGOOOPHORECTOMY occurs without a hyphen. The entry ABALIENATION (S), having the meaning "mental decay, lunacy", is an example of a double negative used for emphasis. And then there is the unusual plural:

SKOPTZY: A sect in Russia who believed that sexual intercourse was a sin and who cut out their testicles making eunuchs of themselves.

The singular is SKOPETS (NI2).

*Word Ways* readers are invited to try to define the following set of words from Robinson's book (all can also be found in S). When more than one definition is possible, supply the medical one.

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|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Comedo      | 8. Meteorism     |
| 2. Formication | 9. Per Anum      |
| 3. Freemartin  | 10. Plumbism     |
| 4. Geophagism  | 11. Pygmalionism |
| 5. Invert      | 12. Submental    |
| 6. Lambdism    | 13. Theism       |
| 7. Meatus      | 14. Urning       |

Also listed in Robinson are 62 phobias and 50 manias. Many of these have not previously appeared in the *Word Ways* articles by Houdini and others. The phobias are:

AMAXOPHOBIA: (S) A morbid fear of riding in a carriage or other vehicle.

APHEPHOBIA: (S) A morbid dread of being touched.

ATAXOPHOBIA: (D) A morbid dread of disorder of any kind.

AUTOMYSOPHOBIA: (S) A dread of personal uncleanliness. A morbid imagining that one is unclean or (particularly) smells bad. The person may be perfectly sane in other respects, and yet imagines that everybody can notice even at a distance how bad he smells when there is nothing the matter with him.

BASOPHOBIA: (D) Morbid fear of walking (or standing erect).

BATOPHOBIA: (D) A morbid fear of high places, high buildings, mountains, church steeples, etc.

BELONEPHOBIA: (S) A morbid fear of pins and needles.

DOMATOPHOBIA: (D) Insane fear of being in a house, either alone or even with others.

ELECTROPHOBIA: (S) A morbid fear of electricity.

HAPHEPHOBIA: (S) A morbid fear of touching things or of being touched.

KENOPHOBIA: (S) A fear of large empty spaces.

LALOPHOBIA: (S) Stutter-spasm, with fear or dislike of speaking.

METALLOPHOBIA: (S) A morbid fear of touching a metallic object.

MYSOPHOBIA: (S) [Also MISOPHOBIA.] A morbid fear of dirt or of becoming defiled by touching anything, even perfectly clean objects.

NOSOPHOBIA: (S) A morbid fear of becoming sick.

NYCTOPHOBIA: (S) A morbid fear of darkness or of the night.

PANOPHOBIA, PANPHOBIA: (D) A vague fear that something terrible is going to happen. A baseless fear of everything.

RHYPOPHOBIA: (T) A morbid fear of filth.

RUPOPHOBIA: (S) An insane dread of dirt or filth.

SCOPOPHOBIA: (S) A morbid fear of being seen.

TAPHEPHOBIA: [TAPHOPHOBIA in S.] Morbid fear of being buried alive.

THANATOPHOBIA: (S) A morbid fear of death.

TOPOPHOBIA: (S) A morbid dread of certain places.

Several interesting manias include the synonyms NYMPHOMANIA = ANDROMANIA (S) = FUROR UTERINUS (T) = HYSTEROMANIA (T) = UTEROMANIA (D) and for DTs = ENOMANIA (S) = HORRORS (NI3) = MANIA A POTU (S). Other manias are:

ARITHMOMANIA: (S) A morbid tendency to count continually.

- CALLOMANIA: (D) Thinking one is endowed with extreme beauty.
- ECOMANIA: (S) A form of mental derangement characterized particularly by uncontrollable fits of temper in one's domestic relations. Outside of his or her home the person may be quite normal and even gentle.
- LOGOMANIA (T): Insane talkativeness.
- MELOMANIA (D): Exaggerated love of music; also a form of insanity in which the patient sings constantly.
- ONIOMANIA: (S) Morbid desire to buy everything in sight.
- ONAMATOMANIA: (S) A morbid mental condition characterized by an obsession of names, by persistent dwelling on some words, by obstinate attempts to recall certain words and by showing an aversion for certain words.
- PLUTOMANIA: (S) Insanity in which the patient thinks himself rich.
- PSEUDOMANIA: (S) Insanity in which the patient accuses himself of crimes of which he is innocent.
- SOPHOMANIA: (S) A sort of insanity in which the patient is convinced of his supreme wisdom.
- THANATOMANIA: Suicidal mania. [In S, it results from a belief in the efficacy of magic.]
- TOMOMANIA: (S) An excessive desire to operate when no operation is indicated. Cacoethes operandi. It is not always a mania; money considerations are often behind such a "mania".

This last definition is an example of Dr. Robinson's penchant for embellishing his definitions with moralisms. Some are ludicrous. For example:

- BALDNESS, DUE TO SEXUAL EXCESS: There is no question that great sexual excess may be the cause of baldness.
- MEMORY, WEAKNESS OF FROM MASTURBATION: There is no question that excessive masturbation may result in great weakness of memory, as well as inability to concentrate.

There are several entries in the dictionary that have not been found in other works. It is possible they all occur in some eugenics or other specialized dictionary:

- AUTO-HEDONIA: Auto-erotism. Masturbation.
- COPROGRAPHY: [Also listed as KOPROGRAPHY.] A perversion consisting in writing vile obscenities dealing with the excreta.
- EPONGEURS: Sexual perverts who derive sexual satisfaction from smelling the urine and feces of the opposite sex. Also called RENIFLEURS.
- ESSAYERS: Male prostitutes carrying on indecent manipulations with female prostitutes in brothels in order to induce sexual excitement in the visitors.
- FLAGELLOMANIA: A perverse desire to either flog another person or to be flogged, in order to obtain sexual satisfaction. In the first instance it is an expression of sadism, in the second, of masochism.
- GRAOPHILIA: Love of middle-aged or old women, particularly seen in some adolescent young men. [GRAO is a Greek prefix for old

- woman.]
- HALF-VIRGINS: Demi-vierges. [In NI2.] Girls who permit and participate in all sexual activities, except actual normal sexual intercourse.
- ILLEGITIMATE MOTHERS: Unmarried mothers. [Notice that neither term would be used today!]
- KAREZZA: Prolonged sexual intercourse without ejaculation. [This may be related to the Italian noun CARESSA: caress.]
- MUJERADOS: Mexican pseudo-homosexuals trained for passive pederasty.
- OZOLAGNIA: Sexual excitement caused by various odors -- not necessarily pleasant ones. [OZO is a Greek prefix meaning bad smell.]
- SHUNAMITISM: The sleeping with (with or without sex relations) young girls in the belief that the proximity of and the emanations from a young body have a rejuvenating effect upon old men. [This certainly refers to the I Kings i story of the old King David being supplied with a Shunammite virgin.]
- URNINDE: A female homosexual.
- VOYEUSES: Women who derive sexual satisfaction by watching the sex act performed by others. [NI2 lists this entry as a kind of chair.]

### **THE NATIONAL GAZETTEER**

*This ambitious project by the US Board on Geographic Names and the US Geological Survey has been launched with a just-published volume on the placenames of New Jersey -- more than ten thousand names of airports, arches, areas, arroyos, bars, basins, bays, beaches, ... (I doubt that New Jersey has any arroyos). Although the basic source of names is the US Geological Survey topographic map, many other sources have been consulted. The price is \$7.50, and it can be obtained only from the Distribution Branch, US Geological Survey, 604 South Picket Street, Alexandria VA 22304 (specify Professional Paper 1200-NJ). The next volumes scheduled are Delaware, Kansas, Indiana and Arizona. Listings of placenames taken only from topographic maps are available for 30 states at \$2 each in microfiche or \$5 to \$29 each in computer printout; 16 more states have a computer printout only.*