

Dictionary of
NEW WORDS

By MARY REIFER

With an Introduction by
ERIC PARTRIDGE



PHILOSOPHICAL LIBRARY
New York

THE NEW WORD

An Introduction by Eric Partridge

Any dictionary of new or hard words is worthy of respect and attention. This particular dictionary is worthy of more. It should be used, consulted, read.

To talk about the usefulness of this dictionary would be to talk about the obvious. Quite apart from its practical, day-to-day uses, this work is valuable for a reason that, mainly concerning the erudite, can be enjoyed by those who have and doubtless enjoy the good fortune of not being erudite: it keeps philologists and linguists on their toes and prevents them from becoming complacent; what's more, it reminds lexicographers of something they forget at their own risk—their fallibility. In short, this dictionary renders to all scholars, not merely to lexicographers (a small and hardy band, seeming, to the laity, virtually indestructible), a notable service, for which they should, although many won't, be properly and permanently grateful, the inestimable service of at once supplying them with food and ammunition and of causing them, one hopes, to be grateful for that supply.

But to laymen, many of them educated and cultured, shrewd and intelligent, a good dictionary of new words performs services no less considerable; the most important being that it puts at their disposal an easily accessible storehouse of information. (Come to think of it, such a dictionary also does this for the scholar, the scientist, the technologist; these people, rarely knowing much outside their particular subject, are experts in only one thing. Exceptions exist, but in startlingly small numbers.) It's reassuring to learn that *berkelium*, which I had suspected was some kind of insect-pest, is merely a chemical element, and not even a very important one. One has seen the word *operation*, with a capital O, so many times that one could be excused for committing mayhem if one saw it again: and yet there's something roguish and endearing in the formidable list of operations to be found in this book. *Palynology*, if one meets with it in the course of dipping into some improving magazine, has nothing to do with the

art of making friends. But, to be deadly serious for a moment, the average reader will rarely be disappointed if, in this dictionary, he looks up this new word or that. I'm making rather a point of indicating that occasionally the seeker will, in fact, be disappointed, my reason being one too seldom stated: no such book is infallible, but only because no such book could be infallible. For general purposes, the general reader will find this dictionary of new words entirely satisfactory. It is clear and comprehensive.

What the ordinary reader and enquirer needs is straightforward information lucidly conveyed. He does not require etymologies or word-histories, so he will not feel betrayed when he notices their absence. Etymologies are rare in this book. Rightly so. A systematic etymology for every entry would probably have doubled the size of the book, without adding to its usefulness, however much it might, for a few of us, have increased the interest. I regret, yet fully admit that this is an idle and merely personal, indeed selfish, regret, that the fascinating new word *cybernetics*, the study of the relationships between the human brain and those mechanical calculators and assessors which perform much the same functions as the brain—should lack an etymology, for here, as so often, the etymology helps the reader, most of all the non-scholarly reader, to understand not only what the word means on the surface but also what it means underneath, what it implies no less than what it patently says.

Cybernetics is, for many reasons and at many levels, an important word; like all other important words, it repays study, or rather it repays study even more than other words, for no word whatever is a mere word. First of all, though its form is plural, it is treated as a singular; it derives from the adjective *cybernetic*, in precisely the same way as *politics* derives from *politic* (now, in this sense, *political*)—as *ethics* from the adjective *ethic* (now usually *ethical*)—as *mathematics* from *mathematic* (now always *mathematical*). Phrased differently, all these -ics nouns correspond, or could correspond, to Greek nouns in -ika, but those Greek nouns (plurals, of course) derive from adjectives in -ikos—compare Latin -icus, French -ique, English -ic. What, then, is the origin of *cybernetic*? It is the Greek *kubernētikos*, which, had it got into Latin, would there have become *cyberneticus*. Greek *kubernētikos* derives from *kubernan*, to steer, hence to guide or direct, hence to govern. Not straight from, but allied to, Greek *kubernan* is the Latin *gubernare*, with exactly the same meanings; its

agent *gubernator*, originally a steersman, becomes one who governs. *Gubernare* and *gubernator* pass into Medieval French as *gouverner*, *gouverneur*, with variants *gouverner*, *gouverneur*, these latter becoming English 'to govern' and *governor*. That famous American citizen, in a saner world, *Gouverneur* Morris was literally 'Steersman' or 'Pilot' Morris. All this is well worth mentioning, for it may serve to render us not unforgetful of the fact that it was mankind which devised and directed the invention and construction of the electronic brain and its companions; that it is mankind which will steer and guide and control their improvements; that, unless we lose our senses, we shall not allow the instruments to control mankind.

But let us pass to matters of perhaps greater importance than the existence and the meaning of certain new words. What is a new word? What makes a new word a new word at all? What causes a word to acquire several or many senses additional to the one with which it set out? It is necessary to distinguish between *word* and *term*, for the latter may consist of one or two or three or even four words. Thus *Operation Cactus* is a term. So too is *realtor*, which is equivalent to *real-estate agent* or, especially, *broker*. When, about 1915, Mr. C. M. Chadbourn of Minneapolis coined *realtor* (probably suggested by *realty*, real estate, with *-or*, agent, substituted for *-y*), he proved himself a minter, an exceptionally realistic and brilliant minter.

The principal reason for new words and new terms continuing to be coined is the same reason as caused them to be coined in the dawn of speech, with this modification—the reason then was the sole reason. And that is, necessity: the need to communicate with one's fellows—to express an emotion or a thought or an observation—to tell of one's discoveries or intentions or fears—to inform, to describe, to urge. Then came, now still comes, the need of self-communion: the need to think lucidly and even subtly; then, perhaps, the desire to elaborate, whether for intellectual or for artistic (fundamentally, creative) reasons. Clearly, in all these mental and emotional activities there has always predominated the method of trial and error. But, to abandon the initial and the intermediate stages, which would involve us in a vast complex of philosophy and philology, let us confine ourselves to the sufficiently complicated present. Of any language in its civilized state, a state implying, on the one hand, the disappearance of callow attempt and inept experiment and, on the other, the formation of an adequate vocabulary and a workable syntax,—of any civilized language it is

true to say that no word arises from nowhere out of nothing; that no word is an entirely fresh creation. Even echoic words, which differ from language to language, and almost from age to age, have been suggested by either a real or an imaginary resemblance. Until late in the 19th century, it used to be said that *gas* was a genuine 'creation from nothing' (*ex nihilo*), by the Flemish chemist, J. B. van Helmont (1577-1644). But then some scholar discovered that van Helmont himself has stated that he coined it in imitation of the Latin *chaos* or of its Greek source *kháos*, in its secondary sense 'atmosphere.' Rapidly and slovenly pronounced, *khá-os* becomes *khas*.

New words are formed in a bewildering variety of ways. To mention a few of the more important: they are either adopted, as *chauffeur*, or adapted, as *enchant*, from another language; they take a prefix, as in *dis-satisfaction*, or a suffix, as in *penal-ize*; or, of course, they acquire a different, or an additional, prefix or suffix—or both. But a word may fairly be described as 'new' if it acquires a new sense. More precisely, the new sense can be described as a new word. *Rum*, inferior, odd, strange, suspect, is a new word as compared with *rum* in its original meaning 'superior, excellent.' That the word started in the underworld and remains undignified is beside the point.

More interesting and more important than 'How are new words formed?' is 'Where do new words come from? Who coins them? Who introduces them?' What branches of knowledge which classes of men, what historical movements or trends or events, have given us the most and the best—or, at any rate, the most serviceable—words? One hardly needs to be a Brain to realize that an adequate reply to that multiple question would require a monograph. Avoiding subtlety and erudition and (I trust) an authoritarian attitude, I should say that, in addition to those prime movers irrepressible curiosity and indefeasible inventiveness, the soils richest in new words, new terms, new senses have—at least, since the Middle Ages—been these (several of them, world-old):

exploration and travel, as we see, perhaps better than anywhere else, in the Elizabethan Age of English and in the Pioneer and Early Development Age of American English, but remark as a factor still contributing notably to the enrichment of all living languages;

war (much as we may hate to admit the fact), because, in all wars, both soldiers and sailors and, since 1914, airmen and civilians as well, have imported or adopted or invented hundreds of words, terms,

phrases, this linguistic aspect ranking as, if we except the unexceptionable 'climate of courage,' the only good result of war;

scholarship, as the world's Philistines and Babbitts, its materialists and all other mental defectives, have—uneasily or even subconsciously aware that they are denying the light—always refused to admit;

the scientists and their blood-brothers, the technologists, as T. H. Savory has shown in his modestly informative book, *The Language of Science* (1953), despite the fact that, many of their words being ugly and clumsy, we accept them only because we must;

the philosophers, that is the thinkers who have dealt with logic, ethics, metaphysics, psychology (including psychiatry), a group that is flanked by the scientists and by the scholars;

cant (the language of the underworld), slang, especially dialect, factors I have treated too often elsewhere to wish to develop here;

but, if beauty and picturesqueness, as well as sheer rightness and effectiveness, are to be accorded equality with usefulness and serviceability, the most important group of all, because it is the most constant and enduring, the ablest, the best qualified, consists of the literary creators, whether poets or prose-writers or those combiners, the dramatists. The world may continue to crucify or to neglect its great creative writers, but it can barely exist, certainly it cannot live, without them.

A

Ab. Symbol for the chemical element alabamine (q.v.).

AB. See airborne.

Abalyn. *n.* Trade name for a liquid synthetic resin used as a plasticizer in nitrocellulose lacquers.

ABCD. Allied forces fighting Japan in World War II; namely American, British, Chinese and Dutch.

ABDA. The Southwest Pacific theater of war, so-called by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, from the first letters of the fighting countries: America, Britain, Dutch East Indies, and Australia.

abient. *adj.* *Psych.* Denoting avoidant reflexive behavior when the stimulus is noxious, as abient drive. *Opp.*: adient.

Able. Code designation (for the letter A) of the first atom test at Bikini on July 1, 1946.

A-bomb. *n.* Atomic bomb.

abort. *v.* *Air Force Slang.* To break down before a flight is completed.

abraded yarns. Continuous filament rayon yarns in which filaments have been cut or abraded at intervals and given added twist to bring about a certain degree of hairiness. Abraded yarns are usually plied or twisted with other yarns before using.

abrogate. *v.* To act as a counter-agent, as in immunology.

absentee interview. *Labor.* An interview given workers who have been absent from work for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of these absences and of reducing or discouraging the practice.

absenteeism. *n.* *Labor.* Voluntary and involuntary absence from work or the failure of workers to report on the job when they are scheduled to work.

absolute. *adj.* *Aeronautics.* Pertaining to the distance from an aircraft to the ground.

absolute altitude. *Aeronautics.* The altitude between an aircraft and the surface of the earth, as differentiated from the altitude with respect to sea level. *Syn.*: Radar or radio altitude.

absolute ceiling. *Aeronautics.* The maximum height above sea level at which a given airplane or airborne missile would be able to maintain horizontal flight under standard conditions.

absorption-emission pyrometer. An instrument to measure rocket (q.v.) gas temperatures.

abstract. *adj.* 1. *Art.* Presenting or characterized by nonrepresentational (q.v.) design intended by means of color, pattern and geometric construction (in the case of painting) or by plastic form (in the case of sculpture) to translate the artist's idea or feeling divested of tangible association. 2. *Music.* Pertaining to music or musical composition which relies solely upon tonal effect—in contrast to program music, songs, etc.

abstract. *n.* A work of art in the abstract design.

abstract behavior. *Psych.* The manipulation of symbols, as distinguished from concrete behavior, which involves the manipulation of things.

abstraction. *n.* *Art and Music.* A painting, sculpture or music created according to abstract (q.v.) principles. If a *pure* abstraction, the work originates entirely within the imagination of the artist without reference to any external object; if a *near* abstraction, it is suggested by a concrete object or organic figure which the artist translates into a nonrepresentational (q.v.) or only partly representational design which may preserve some recognizable elements or tonal qualities of the original object.

abstractionism. *n.* *Art.* The principles of abstract (q.v.) composition in painting, sculpture or music.

abstractionist. *n.* *Art.* An artist who creates abstractions (q.v.) or a critic who adheres to the principles of the abstract movement.

abundance. *n.* *Economics.* A supply of material necessities, comforts, and simple luxuries adequate to provide the physical basis for "a good life", as in "an economy of abundance."

academic freedom. The right of professional teachers and educators to write and teach what they wish, without censorship.

accelerator. *n.* 1. *Nucleonics.* A machine to accelerate sub-atomic particles. 2. *Chem.* A device or substance to accelerate the hardening process of resin in the manufacture of plastics.

accent light. See lighting.

accession. *n.* *Labor.* The hiring of a new employee or the rehiring of an old employee.

accessorize. *v.* To provide with dress accessories, such as handbag, gloves, shoes, etc.

access road. A road especially constructed to give access to a new highway.

accident frequency rate. *Labor.* A measurement of the rate of occurrence of industrial accidents.

accident-prone. *adj.* Unusually likely to suffer accidents or injuries, because of carelessness or psychological causes.

accident severity rate. *Labor.* A measurement of severity of industrial accidents, usually indicated by the amount of time lost on account of accidents.

accommodation, group. *Sociology.* The process in which interacting groups modify their organization, role or status to conform to the requirements set up by the situation or by the inclusive social unit.

accommodation unit. A place of residence.

accurator. *n.* *Mil.* A device for teaching long-distance shooting without the use of bullets.

ace. *n.* *Automatic computing engine,* developed in Britain, which can solve mathematical problems at greater speed than the eniac (q.v.).

acetal. *n.* Acetaldehyde diethyl acetal, used for plastics, drugs, cosmetics, etc.

aceto-glyceride. *n.* A synthetic fat, produced by chemically substituting acetic acid for longer chain fatty acids in glycerides of natural fats. It is used as a secondary plasticizer for a vinyl (q.v.) resin.

ac globulin. *n.* A protein in blood which by producing prothrombin, is the fifth factor in clotting. It was discovered in 1948.

acidize. *v.* *Chem.* To add acid to produce chemical change, such as dissolution of lime out of sand, etc.

acidoid. *adj.* *Soil Science.* Resembling acid or pertaining to substances which tend to become acid. — *n.* A potential acid.

ack-ack. *adj.* Anti-aircraft, as an ack-ack gun. *n.* An anti-aircraft gun or its fire, or a battery of anti-aircraft guns or their fire. (From the abbr. A. A. as pro-

nounced for clarity by British telephone signallers, World War II.)

acorn squash. A sweet, green squash, with yellow flesh, about 5 inches wide, shaped like an acorn.

acorn tube. *Radio.* A small acorn-shaped radio tube, used for high frequencies.

acoustic mine. See mine, acoustic.

acoustic phonetics. *Linguistics and physical phonetics.* The study of the sound-waves produced when sounds are uttered. A branch of experimental phonetics (q.v.).

Acilan. *n. Chem.* Tradename of a synthetic acrylonitrile staple fiber; resists wrinkling and spotting, is moth-proof, dries quickly, is bulky and warm, but light in weight.

acronym. *n.* A word made up of the first letters of a series of words, or of the beginnings and ends of a series of words, such as UNO, WAVE, radar, motel, etc. **acronymic, acronymous.** *adj.* **acronymize.** *v.*

acrophony. *n. Linguistics.* A method of writing, employing phonetic signs or symbols which represent pictorially the initial sound or syllable of the object they depict. **acrophonetic.** *adj.*

across-the-board. *adj.* All encompassing, regardless of category, as across-the-board wage adjustment, which may be granted in uniform percentage or cents-per-hour terms. In the former case, the absolute amount of increase will differ among employees in accordance with their original rate levels.

acrotheater. *n.* Acrobatic and dramatic performances combined.

acrylate. See acrylic.

acrylic. *n.* In full: acrylic resin. A thermoplastic material made by com-

bining esters of acrylic or methacrylic acid, used for aircraft turrets, auto tail lights, dentures, and transparent parts because of its properties of transparency, weather resistance, wide color range, shatter resistance, and machinability.

acrylonitrile. *n. Chem.* A synthetic product, obtained from polymerization of natural gas and used as a base for synthetic textile fibers.

ACS. See antireticular cytotoxic serum.

actamer. *n. Chem.* A product, developed to prevent bacteria growth in cosmetics and soaps.

ACTH. *n.* Corticotropin (q.v.), or adrenocorticotropic (i.e., affecting the cortex of the adrenal glands) hormone, discovered in 1949 by Dr. Philip S. Hench of the Mayo Clinic; induces the production of cortisone (q.v.). Also called adrenocorticotrophin.

actidone. *n. Biochem.* An antibiotic obtained from the same fungus as streptomycin (q.v.), used against plant-disease fungi.

actin. *n. Biochem.* Part of the actin-myosin complex in muscles. A protein found in muscle.

actinomycin. *n. Biochem.* An antibiotic extracted from soil bacteria.

activable. *adj.* Capable of being activated (q.v.).

activate. *v.* 1. To render more active by stimulation. 2. Mil. To equip and man a unit for operation. 3. *Chem.* To make carbon or charcoal more absorbent, as in purifying water, sugar solutions, etc.

activator. *n. Chem. & Embryol.* Tissue which, in the process of development, gives off a substance which brings about differentiation of adjacent tissue; also the substance given off by such tissue.

active consideration. *Officialese.* Consideration, presumably more intense than ordinary official consideration.

activist. *n. Labor.* One who increased production or was instrumental in increasing the production of a group.

actomyosin. *n. Biochem.* A semi-liquid complex of the two proteins found in muscle-action, actin and myosin, instrumental in muscular contraction.

actualization. *n. Linguistics.* The perceptible result of the articulation of related phonemic forms or of archi-phonemes (q.v.).

ad. *n.* Advertisement.

ADA. Americans for Democratic Action. A political organization of liberals, seeking to further more progressive policies, usually within the Democratic party.

ADA. See Atomic Development Authority.

A Day. 1. The day the first atomic bomb was exploded at Bikini on July 1, 1946. 2. The day of a possible atomic air attack. 3. Any preset day of military attack.

ADC. See Air Defense Command.

ADC. Alaska Defense Command of World War II.

addiction. *n.* Strong emotional and physiological dependence, specifically upon alcohol or a drug, which has progressed beyond voluntary control.

additive. *n.* A substance added to a product, intended to make the latter longer-lived or more powerful, such as a battery additive.

address. *n.* A petition from the legislative branch of the government removing, but not impeaching, an unworthy judge. — *v.*

adduct. *n. Chem.* Addition product.

adenine. *n. Biochem.* A derivative of

nucleic acid. With the pentose sugar, ribose, it forms adenosine.

adermin. *n.* Vitamin B₆ or pyridoxine (q.v.).

adibasi. *n.* (Term coined by Indian Constituent Assembly member Jaipal Singh.) Leader of an aboriginal tribe of India.

adient. *adj. Psych.* Denoting approach behavior when the stimulus is inviting, as adient drive. *Opp.:* abient.

ADIZ. Air Defense Identification Zone, a special area designed for protection against enemy air attack.

ad lib. *n.* (usually plural). That which is spoken, sung, or otherwise performed extemporaneously. *ad-lib.* *adj.*

ad-lib. *v.* (From *ad libitum*—at will, music score abbreviation.) To speak, sing or otherwise perform extemporaneously or in some unforeseen manner. *ad-lib-**ber.* *n.*

adman. *n.* An advertising agent or one connected in any other way with the advertising field.

Administrative Office of the United States Courts. A federal agency established in 1939, supervised by the senior federal circuit judges, to prepare budgets, audit vouchers, disburse funds and handle personnel administration, statistics, etc.

admiral of the fleet. See fleet admiral.

adobe bug. A poultry pest.

adrenergic. *adj. Adrenaline-energic.* Pertaining to physiological actions and reactions resulting from the release of adrenaline or sympathin.

adrenochrome. *n. Biochem.* Oxidized adrenaline.

adrenocortical. *adj.* Pertaining to the adrenal cortex.

adrenocorticotrophin. See ACTH.

adrenocorticotrophic. *adj.* Affecting the adrenal cortex.

adrenolysis. *n.* *Physiol.* Interference with adrenaline action of autonomic nerve endings.

adrenolytic. *adj.* *Physiol.* Pertaining to substances which inhibit the action of autonomic nerve endings.

adrenotropic. See adrenocorticotrophic.

adsorbate. *n.* That which is adsorbed, or, loosely, the adsorbed matter and that which adsorbed it.

adtevac. *n.* Adsorption-temperature-vacuum, a process of thawing frozen blood to be used in blood transfusions.

adulticide. *n.* Insecticide which kills adult rather than larval forms. **adulticidal**. *adj.*

adultoid. *n.* One who looks like an adult but who is not fully developed.

AEC. See Atomic Energy Commission.

aegis. *n.* (From Greek aegis or egis—shield or protecting power.) Supervisory auspices, sponsorship, as of an organization.

aeolian. *adj.* *Soil Science.* Wind-borne or deposited by wind, as an aeolian deposit.

aerial-burst fuze. A fuze with a functioning time so calculated as to detonate a bomb before it reaches the ground, either at a predetermined altitude or after the elapse of a predetermined period of time after being launched.

aerial camera. A camera used for taking photographs from aircraft.

aerial gunnery. The theory and technique of firing machine guns and cannon installed in aircraft.

aerial mine. A large bomb equipped with a parachute for delayed descent.

aerial photo sketch. A military sketch produced by adding contours, special military information, and marginal data

to the planimetric detail appearing on a vertical aerial photograph.

aerial torpedo. A large self-propelled projectile carrying a heavy explosive charge, launched from aircraft, usually at a low altitude.

Aerobee. A rocket (q.v.), capable of carrying instruments above the stratosphere and of travelling at the speed of 3000 miles per hour.

aerobiology. *n.* A branch of biology dealing with airborne microorganisms, viruses, plant spores, pollen, etc. **aerobiological**. *adj.* **aerobiologist**. *n.* **aerobiologically**. *adv.*

arco club. A Red Cross relaxation and game center, portable and quickly erected, flown to members of the Armed Forces camps in remote areas during World War II.

aerodynamicist. *n.* One trained in the science of aerodynamics, i.e. the science of the motion and forces of air and other gaseous substances.

aerodyne. *n.* A heavier-than-air aircraft. (From aerodynamics, the science of the motion of air and other gaseous substances and forces acting on solids in motion in such media.) *Opp.*: aerostat.

aeroembolism. *n.* *Med.* Embolism caused by the occurrence of nitrogen bubbles in the blood or spinal fluid during rapid ascent or descent in flying. *Syn.*: air bends.

aerogel. *n.* *Chem.* A gel from which the liquid is removed and replaced by a gas with little shrinkage.

aerogenerator. *n.* A windmill with propeller driven turbines.

aerograph. See aerometeorograph.

aerometeorograph. *n.* A recording instrument for obtaining meteorological data above the earth's surface, such as temperature, pressure, and humidity, adaptable for use in aircraft. Also called aerograph.

aeroneurosis. *n.* *Med.* An emotional disorder of aviators characterized by diarrhea, restlessness, abdominal discomfort, and other nervous symptoms.

aeroneurotic. *adj.* Manifesting symptoms of aeroneurosis (q.v.).

aero-otitis media. *Med.* Irritation and/or inflammation of the ear, due to excessive pressure in an aircraft. Loosely called aviator's ear.

aeropause. *n.* Region of space about 20 to 200 kilometers above the surface of the earth, the borderline between outer space and areas which man can approach.

aerophilately. *n.* Philately specializing in airmail stamps.

aeropolitics. *n.* International politics influenced by the new developments in aviation.

aeropulse. See pulse jet.

aerosinusitis. *n.* Sinusitis due to high altitude flying and the differences between internal and external air pressures.

Aerosol. *n.* A trademark name applied to a spray or mist, chemically dioctyl ester of sodium sulfosuccinate.

aerosol bomb. A gadget which contains and dispenses an insecticide or air purifier in a mist or spray form.

aerosporin. *n.* *Biochem.* An antibiotic produced from soil bacteria, possibly useful against whooping cough, and other diseases.

acrostatics. *n.* 1. The science that deals with the equilibrium of air and other gases, and of bodies immersed in them. 2. The science of navigating lighter-than-air craft.

AFB. Air Force Base.

affect. *n.* *Psychiatry.* 1. General emotional feeling tone. 2. The sum total of

the various emotions present acting together.

affect hunger. *Psychol.* Basic affective striving of the rejected child.

affinity. *n.* *Linguistics.* Similarities or analogies among languages of different origin. Cf. linguistic typology.

AFHQ. Allied Forces Headquarters.

AFMTC. Air Force Missile Test Center, for experimental flights of rockets, jets and robots.

afterburner. *n.* *Aeronautics.* The device at the back of a jet engine or a rocket which prolongs fuel burning, so that exhaust temperature in the exhaust jet is increased.

afterburning. *n.* *Aeronautics.* 1. The characteristic of certain rocket motors of burning irregularly for some time after main burning and thrust have ceased. 2. The process of fuel injection and combustion in the exhaust jet of a turbojet (q.v.) engine.

AFTRC. See Air Training Command of the U.S. Air Force.

AGD. *Navy.* The symbol designating the flagship of an amphibious force.

age hardening. *Chem.* Process of allowing aluminum alloys to attain full hardness following a heat treatment by leaving them inert at room temperature for certain periods of time.

agent, wetting. *Chem.* A substance which, when added to a liquid, will lower the surface tension of the liquid.

AGF. *Biochem.* A pituitary hormone, discovered in 1953, which stimulates the adrenal gland, and is distinct from ACTH (q.v.).

aggregate. *n.* *Soil Science.* Basic unit of structure of the soil, consisting of an agglomeration of small soil particles.

aggression-frustration. *Psychol.* Aggres-

sive behavior compensatory for continued frustrations, the strength of aggression being inversely proportional to the intensity of frustrations.

agitprop. *adj.* Agitation-propaganda. Pertaining to any medium which will spread propaganda intended to agitate the masses. **agitpropist.** *n.*

agricultural parity. See parity.

agrobiology. *n.* Science of soil management in relation to plant growth and crop production. **agrobiologic(al).** *adj.* **agrobiologist.** *n.*

agrorod. *n.* A large farm settlement in the Soviet Union, equipped with mechanized farm implements.

air age. An era in the history of mankind where air transportation is of prime importance.

air alert. 1. The state of being alerted against enemy air attack; also, the warning against such attack. 2. *Aeronautics.* State in which aircraft are airborne, fully armed and serviced, ready to start out on a mission.

air alert method. The air defense method consisting in keeping aircraft airborne and in the state of air alert (q.v.).

air alert mission. *Aeronautics.* A mission in which the target is assigned to airborne planes in the state of air alert (q.v.).

air ambulance. An airplane equipped for transporting sick and wounded.

air attaché. An officer of the United States Air Force assigned, as a representative of the Secretary of the Air Force and of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, to an embassy or legation of the United States as an accredited member of its diplomatic staff and military adviser of the chief of the latter.

air bends. See aeroembolism.

air blitz. See blitz; blitzkrieg.

airborne. *Aeronautics.* *Abbr.* AB or A/B. 1. Personnel or materiel customarily transported by air. 2. Aircraft or guided missiles (q.v.) entirely sustained by air and not attached to the ground.

air brake. *Aeronautics.* A device on aircraft which can be projected into the airstream, utilizing air resistance to slow down or otherwise maneuver the aircraft.

airbrasive. See airdent.

air bridge. An air route between two places otherwise cut off. See airlift.

air burst. *Aeronautics.* The bursting of a shell or bomb in the air.

air-burst ranging. *Aeronautics.* The adjustment of gun-fire by the observation of air bursts.

aircast. *n.* Broadcast.

air coach. A cut-rate airplane passenger service which omits certain extras, such as meals, and makes more stops en route. Also, an airplane providing this type of service.

air command. *Air Force.* A major command consisting of two or more numbered air forces, comparable to a field army of the United States Army. (Also called Strategic and Tactical Air Force.) The American Continental air commands are: Air Defense Command (ADC), Air Materiel Command (AMC), Air Proving Ground Command, (APG), Air Training Command (AFTRC), Air University (AU), Headquarters Command, USAF (HQ C USAF), Military Air Transport Service (MATS), Strategic Air Command (SAC), Tactical Air Command (TAC), Special Weapons Command, and Research and Development Command. Overseas commands are: Alaska Air Command (ALAC), Caribbean Air Command (CAIRC), Far East Air Forces (FEAF), Pacific Air Forces (PAIRC), United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE). See these separate entries.

air-condition. *v.* To treat air with apparatus which cleans and controls its temperature and humidity; to equip a room or building with such apparatus.
air-conditioned. *adj.* **air-conditioner.** *n.*

air-conditioning. *n.* 1. System for cleaning air and controlling its temperature and humidity in a room or building. 2. The branch of engineering which deals specifically with the techniques of air-conditioning.

air cover. See *umbrella* 1.

aircraft group. *Navy.* Two or more squadrons of naval aircraft.

Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion Program. *Abbr.* ANPP. A project (formerly the Nuclear Energy for Propulsion of Aircraft), for making available an airplane engine driven by nuclear energy. The project is supervised by a board composed of representatives of the U.S. Air Force, Navy, Atomic Energy Commission and the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

aircraft observer. *Air Force.* A rating awarded to Air Force personnel.

Aircraft Production, Office of. *Abbr.* OAP. A federal agency within the Department of War responsible for furnishing the armed services with airplanes and airplane equipment.

aircraft wing. *Navy.* Two or more Naval aircraft groups.

aircrew. *n.* Personnel on an aircraft.

aircrewman. *n.* Member of an aircrew (*q.v.*).

Air Defense Command. *Abbr.* ADC. A major air command of the United States Air Force, charged with maintaining an active air defense for the nation, in liaison with the other branches of the armed services.

airdent. *n.* *Dentistry.* The use of a jet of carbon dioxide and aluminum oxide

powder under high pressure to drill teeth; developed by Dr. R. A. Blach from his earlier "airbrasive" process.

air division. An Air Force unit for operational and administrative purposes, consisting of a headquarters and two to five wings.

airdrop. *n.* *Mil.* 1. Dropping of equipment or supplies by parachute to military personnel caught behind enemy lines. 2. Dropping of propaganda leaflets into enemy held territory. — *v.*

airedale. *n.* *Navy Slang.* Crewmember who handles airplanes on an aircraft carrier.

air express. 1. Fast transportation of packages by airplane, or the packages so transported. *Cf.* *airfreight*. 2. Fee charged for this service.

airfluent. *n.* Air carrying waste gases or vapors from a chemical factory, dangerous to plant or animal life.

airfoil. *n.* *Aeronautics.* A thin body, such as a wing, aileron, or rudder, designed to obtain reaction from the air through which it moves.

airfoil section. *Aeronautics.* A cross section of an airfoil parallel to the plane of symmetry or to a specified reference plane.

Air Force, Department of the. Established in 1947 as one of the three components of the U.S. Department of Defense, it is headed by a Secretary of the Air Force, without Cabinet rank.

airframe. *n.* *Aeronautics.* 1. The complete airplane except the engine. 2. In guided missiles, the assembled principal structural components, excluding the propulsion system, control and electronic equipment, and payload.

airfreight. *n.* 1. Cargo carried on an airplane. 2. Fee charged for this service.

airfreighter. *n.* An airplane which carries a freight load.

airglow. n. A luminous glow in the night sky, coming from the upper atmosphere.

airgraph. See V-mail.

air-ground communication. Communication between air and ground forces, or airborne aircraft and ground posts.

air-ground liaison code. Symbols representing words or phrase, designed and used for air-ground communication (qv.).

air-ground liaison panel. Large strips or pieces of cloth used by ground troops as visual signals to airborne aircraft.

air-ground operations. Tactical operations involving joint participation of ground and air units.

air group. *Air Force.* The smallest tactical organization acting as a self-contained unit in the Air Force, consisting of a headquarters and two or more squadrons (about 3600 men). Comparable to a regiment in the Army.

airhead. n. *Mil.* An airfield in a theater of operation where supplies arrive by airplane. Also used as an evacuation center.

air intelligence. Intelligence information so oriented and compiled as to disclose data necessary for the success of air operations.

air jeep. A civilian helicopter, weighing 104 pounds, seating one person, and equipped with a tricycle landing gear; it has a range of about 200 miles and requires only 30 feet square for landing. It is controlled by a single guiding stick.

airletter. n. A stamped piece of stationery for air mail dispatch which can be folded and sealed to cover the message written on the inside; no enclosures are permitted.

airlift. n. A transportation and supply line operated entirely by aircraft. Greatest in history was the "Berlin airlift,"

when the U.S. Air Force flew food and other supplies into Berlin to circumvent the Soviet land blockade of that city from April 1, 1948, to September 30, 1949.

airmark. v. To mark points on the ground for direction finding from an aircraft. The markings include the name of the place, longitude and latitude, direction of true north and distance and direction to the nearest airport. **airmarker. n.**

air mass. *Meteorol.* An extensive mass of air having uniform density, temperature and humidity, such as the tropical air mass, or the polar air mass.

Air Medal. A decoration established in 1942, for valor demonstrated while serving the U.S. Air Force.

airpark. n. A small airfield for private planes.

Air Permeability Meter. Trademark name of an instrument for determining a fabric's resistance to the passage of air through it.

air police. United States Air Force equivalent of the Military Police of the U.S. Army.

air raid warden. A volunteer worker in the Civilian Defense program who aids in preparations against air attack.

air raid warning. A signal, usually siren blasts, warning the population to take shelter from approaching enemy aircraft.

air reconnaissance. Act or process of obtaining military information by aerial observation and aerial photography.

air scoop. *Aeronautics.* A scoop or hood designed to catch the air and maintain the air pressure in ballonets, internal combustion engines ventilators, etc.

air scout. *Air Force.* Personnel charged with giving warning of approach of hostile aircraft.

air-sea rescue. The combined use of aircraft, surface and submarine craft to rescue survivors of disasters at sea.

air sleeve. See wind sleeve.

air sock. See wind sleeve.

air speed. *Aeronautics.* Speed measured relative to the air in which the aircraft is moving, as distinct from ground speed, which is measured relative to a point on the surface of the earth.

air-speed head. An instrument for measuring the speed of an aircraft relative to the air.

Air Staff. *Air Force.* The administrative organization headed by the Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force.

airstream engine. *Aeronautics.* A reaction motor (q.v.) equipped to use oxygen of the air as oxidizer.

airstrip. *n.* *Aeronautics.* 1. A long narrow runway, usually temporary, for the take-off and landing of aircraft. 2. A portable runway consisting of metal sheets. Also called landing strip.

air subsidies. The compensation, determined by the Civil Aeronautics Board (q.v.), given by the U.S. government to private airlines for carrying the mail.

air superiority. The ability of an air force to conduct air operations freely at all times without decisive interference by an enemy air force.

air support. An air operation intended to support the operations of the entire command or force.

air supremacy. Absolute air superiority (q.v.).

air tee. See wind sleeve.

airtillery. *n.* *Mil.* Air attack upon the enemy by means of guided missiles, or other long-range projectiles from ground installations.

air-to-air missile. See guided missile.

air-to-surface missile. See guided missile.

air-to-underwater missile. See guided missile.

Air Training Command. *Abbr.* AFTRC. The U.S. Air Force command charged with supervising the training of all personnel.

Air Training Command, Naval. *Navy.* The organization charged with the training of Naval and Marine air personnel.

Air Transport Command. *Abbr.* ATC. Created in 1941, it was responsible for flying troops and lend-lease (q.v.) material to Great Britain.

air tunnel. A prescribed air route.

Air University. *Abbr.* AU. An agency of the U.S. Air Force charged with guiding the education and training for command posts of Air Force officers.

airway. *n.* An established air route including landing fields, landing strips, beacon lights, and radar facilities.

airways station. A ground post equipped and manned for communicating with airborne craft and other airways stations.

airworthy. *adj.* Denoting ability of an aircraft to perform its functions satisfactorily.

aisle-sitter. *n.* A theater critic.

alabamine. *n.* Chemical element 85, now called astatine (q.v.).

Alathon. *n.* *Chem.* Trademark name of a synthetic material for insulating infantry field wire.

alclad. *n.* Trademark name of a treatment of aluminum alloys whereby a coat of commercially pure aluminum is plated over the alloy, making it equal to the pure metal in corrosion resistance.

Aldrin. Trademark name for an insecticide used against locusts.

alert. n. 1. An air-raid alarm. 2. *Air Force*. The state of readiness for undertaking a specific mission, fully armed and serviced.

alert. v. To signal an alert, military or civilian.

Alien Property Custodian. An official authorized by Congress to seize and administer properties owned or controlled by enemy countries or persons during World War II.

alkali disease. Chronic selenosis (q.v.).

alkyd. n. *Chem.* A synthetic resin made from polybasic acids or anhydrides and polyhydric alcohols, such as glycerol. It is used for fuses, light switches, automobile parts, refrigerators, etc.

all clear. The signal given after an air attack or air raid to indicate that the enemy aircraft are gone and that immediate danger is over.

allergen. n. The agent which causes an allergy (q.v.), or arouses the allergic reaction, usually pollen, dust or other airborne particles, foods, or substances that come in contact with the skin.
allergenic. adj.

allergy. n. 1. Sensitivity of some individuals to certain substances, called allergens (q.v.), which manifests itself in sneezing, coughing, runny eyes and nose, itching, or skin eruptions. 2. *Slang*. Acute feeling of irritation or aversion.
allergic. adj.

Allied Control Committee. Established June 5, 1945, assumed full control throughout German territory. Included Gen. Eisenhower, Field Marshal Montgomery and Marshal Zhukov.

Allied Council for Japan. The governing body administering the interests of the Allied Powers in Japan after World War II.

Allied High Commission A three-man body consisting of high commissioners

appointed by the United States, France, and Great Britain to supervise the German Federal Republic. The powers of the Commission were defined in the Occupational Statute. It had the authority to veto the laws of the Republic and to exercise plenary powers over foreign policy, reparations, decartelization, security, and control of the Ruhr.

Allied Military Government of Occupied Territory. See AMG.

alligator. n. 1. *Mil.* The landing vehicle LVI (q.v.). 2. *Slang*. One who does not play swing music, but who likes to listen to it, usually open-mouthed, like an alligator.

allo-. Genetics. A combining form indicating dissimilar origin. *Opp.*: auto-.

allocate. v. To arrange for equitable distribution of equipment, food, or whatever else might be difficult to obtain, said of governmental or intergovernmental control bodies. **allocates. n.** The receiver of a share of allocated goods.
allocation. n. **allocator. n.**

allometry. n. *Biol.* 1. The relationship of the growth of part of an organism to that of the whole. 2. Study of this growth. **allometric. adj.**

allomorph. n. *Linguistics.* A positional variant of a morpheme (q.v.) occurring in a specific environment, as "am" is an allomorph of "be," occurring in the environment of "I."

allophone. n. *Linguistics.* One of the several variants of speech sounds which constitute a phoneme (q.v.), as influenced by the adjoining sounds.

all-out. adj. Complete, without reserve, as all-out effort. Often used adverbially with go as go all out, to do everything in one's power to achieve a particular goal.
all-outer. n. An advocate of all-out methods.