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NOTES AND QUERIES  
FOR  
WORCESTERSHIRE

BY **JOHN NOAKE**,  
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### PECULIAR WORDS

Among the archaic or peculiar words used in Worcestershire ( as also in some of the neighbouring counties), are the following: "Tabber," to strike repeated blows with the fist; "heft," weight; "colly," the black from a tea-kettle or from coal; "wowing," selling ale without a license; "leazing," gleaning (this is used in many counties); "cott," or "Molly Cott," a nickname given to a man who interferes unduly in domestic affairs; "lungeous," being awkward, heavy, and dangerous in play; "off his head," deranged; "squilt," a small wart or pimple on the skin; "moithered," a state of great bewilderment in the head; "glat," an opening in a hedge; "unked," or "unkid," to denote loneliness and awkwardness; "butty," a companion, also a sort of overseer among colliers; "fettle," to mix or interfere with, also means condition; "gain," and "kind," both words used to represent the condition of crops or anything else the appearance of which is promising; "dollop," a good share or quantity. A person was cutting cloth, and was recommended to rip it, as more expeditious. "That is not so good," he replied, "because the thread *fazles*." A lady told her servant the "string was broken;" the servant replied, "Yes, and I tried to mend it, but I couldn't *odds* it." The servant came from a village in Gloucestershire. "Odds it" means

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to *alter* it. The word is very common in Gloucestershire and in some parts of this county. In the above list several words of Saxon origin are perceptible, showing that old languages linger among the poorer classes longer than with the better educated, whose vocabulary has been more enlarged by finer, though perhaps not more expressive words, which are constantly being imported from foreign sources. Sir Thomas Phillis, Bart., says: "I have recollected a remarkable term which I heard formerly in Broadway. It is the word *anant* or *enant*, spoken when it was intended to express that one thing was opposite to another, by poor people. "He lives *anant* such a place," "*anant* that yat," &c. It is remarkable, because it is almost the Greek word *εναντιος*. Are we to suppose it to have been introduced when the Saxon kings adopted Greek phraseology and terms in their grants to monasteries! Pershore, to which Broadway belonged, was a Saxon



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monastery, therefore it is not impossible but it may have been introduced by the monks in their visits to Broadway."

