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SERIES B.

REPRINTED GLOSSARIES

- I. NORTH OF ENGLAND WORDS; FROM 'A TOUR TO THE CAVES,' BY J. H.; 1781.
- II. PROVINCIALISMS OF EAST YORKSHIRE; BY MR. MARSHALL; 1788.
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- VI. PROVINCIALISMS OF WEST DEVONSHIRE; BY MR. MARSHALL; 1796.
- VII. A GLOSSARY OF WORDS USED IN THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE;
BY MR. WILLAN; 1811.

EDITED BY THE

REV. WALTER W. SKEAT, M. A.

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INTRODUCTION TO PART I.

The study of English Dialects has hitherto lain under several disadvantages, one of which is the difficulty of consulting the various works that have appeared on the subject. Many glossaries have been issued in the form of mere appendices to works upon very different subjects, whence two hindrances at once arise. First, it is not always easy to find them, or to ascertain the titles of the works containing them; and secondly, the student has then, to purchase the work, probably a large or scarce one, and perhaps both, for the mere sake of some five or six pages in it. This necessarily involves trouble and expense, whilst the glossary is in a very unhandy form after all. These impediments are all removed by the issue of such reprints as those contained in this volume. The first seven glossaries save the space, and a large part of the expense, of no less than *eleven octavo volumes*, and *one in quarto*, whilst at the same time it is easy to turn from one to the other by merely turning over the leaves.

It is not necessary to say much about the books containing the glossaries, because a short account of each work is in each case prefixed. It is, however, as well to state here that all comment has been carefully refrained from, except in a very few cases where a remark seemed absolutely requisite. It will readily be understood that the authors make their statements for what they are worth, and that they occasionally utter opinions which probably no member of the English Dialect Society would endorse; as when, for example, Mr Marshall talks about the Vale of Pickering being so secluded that probably no Roman, Dane, or *Saxon*, ever set foot in it (p. 17). A few prefatory remarks may still, however, find place here. In Glossary I, the author gives us small clue as to the locality of his words, as he simply labels them 'North of England.' Since, however, his place of residence was Burton-in-Kendal, and his work treats of the Caves in the West-Riding of Yorkshire, we may perhaps refer the majority of them to Westmoreland, the West of Yorkshire, and the Northern part of Lancashire. His Introductory Remarks are very sensible, though we may perhaps demur to the opinion that many of the words are of Greek extraction; still we may well be grateful to him for 'not having attempted to

derive any of them. ' It is perhaps proper to add that the parts of speech (as *v.* for verb, *sb.* for substantive, &c.) are duly noted by J. H. and Dr

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Willan only, but they have been supplied in Mr Marshall's glossaries also, for the sake of greater distinctness. In the next set of Glossaries, Nos. II—VI, all by the same author, Mr W. H. Marshall, we may lay most stress upon the first of them, which deals with the Provincialisms of East Yorkshire. Here the author was at home, and dealing with words current in his native district: for which reason we are the more grateful to him for breaking through his first design, that of recording *only* such words as related to rural affairs; a design which, in his other glossaries, he carries out rather strictly.

His prefatory remarks cannot wholly be relied upon; even in dealing with the pronunciation of his own neighbourhood, he seems often to be at fault, partly, no doubt, from the common inability to express the sounds which he intended. Mr Ellis took considerable pains to ascertain his *real* meaning, but without much success. What is intended by 'the diphthong *ea*' on p. 18 is indeed a puzzle; whilst in the 'Explanations' at p. 21, he talks of the *aw* in *word*, on which Mr Ellis remarks that '*aw* ought to mean [aew],¹ but the example is utterly confusing, since *word* in S. Cleveland and the East Coast line is [wod]. ' It is an additional difficulty that the author's remarks refer to the last century instead of to the present.

So also, at p. 56, with respect to the remark that 'in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somersetshire, &c., the asperate consonants are pronounced with vocal positions,' Mr Ellis remarks as follows:—

'This is altogether misleading; [th, f, s] generally become, when initial only, [dh, v, z], and [thr] becomes [dr]. The changes of [t, p] into [d, b] I have not heard of. It is as wrong as the following account of Welsh, which is a grammatical, not a purely phonetic mutation. The *a* slender much more usually becomes [ee] than [aay]; in fact, *name* is the only word I am certain of in which such a change takes place, though even here, at any rate at Tetbury, [neem] is commoner. It is *ai* or *ay* which becomes (or rather remains) [aay] throughout the West. In Somerset, *fire*, *fair* are [vuuy' h', vaay' h']. The long *i* is

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not [ey], but varies as [uy, uuy, uay, ua'y], and [uuy] is the best to take. The [wom] or [wuum] for *home*, on p. 57, is right. '

It ought to be remarked, further, in explanation of some of Mr Marshall's *dicta*, that a careful examination of his language will reveal the fact that he was so unfortunate as to hold a theory, than which nothing can be more prejudicial to all scientific treatment of the subject. Moreover, as is usual in such cases, his theory was wrong, and that to such an extent that we can but wonder how he came by it. His notion clearly was that the true original form of English was Welsh; and if this be borne in mind, the whole tenour of his remarks is at once apparent. Thus, at p. 17, the reason why the men of the vale of Pickering spoke such idiomatic English is because

Mr. C. C. Robinson suggests [ao] as the sound intended.

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they were purely *British*; 'no Roman, Dane, not Saxon ever setfoot' in the Moreland Dales. Hence their language abounds 'in *native words*. ' This again is the reason why, at p. 56, he speaks of a certain habit as 'common to the West of England and to Wales, a circumstantial evidence that the inhabitants of the western side of the island [meaning the West of England and Wales] are descended *from one common origin*. ' A moment later, he is somewhat troubled by the variation between the men of Gloucester and of Wales in their 'pronunciation¹ of the consonants,' which to him is so 'striking' that 'one might *almost* declare them descendants of two distinct colonies. ' The introduction of this saving 'almost' is very remarkable. Again, at p. 30, he says of *heal*, our modern *hale*, that it is 'probably the *old British* word. '

Strange as this notion of our being all Welshmen may appear now, it was probably by no means peculiar to our Glossarist. This receives some illustration from the fact that, in the last century, we did not always call ourselves Englishmen, but often *Britons*, just as the Americans are commonly made to talk about 'Britishers' and 'the British lion. ' It is not worth while to multiply instances; all can remember how Thomson declared that 'Britons never will be slaves,' and how Campbell, in his stanzas on the threatened invasion in 1803, burst out with—'In a Briton's sweet home shall a spoiler abide?.' On

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the other hand, it is not improbable that the labours of the English Dialect Society may hereafter make it plain, that the amount of Welsh amongst our more homely words has been somewhat underrated.

Mr Marshall greatly improved his glossaries by frequently giving references in them to other parts of his books in which the words glossed are more fully illustrated. Thus, at p. 46, Glossary B. 3, s. v. *Anbury*, he refers to vol. ii. p. 33, of his work. In order that these additional illustrations might not be lost, the quotations have all been copied out and inserted in their proper places. Thus, in this instance, the passage meant is the one beginning—'the *anbury* is a large excrescence,' and ending with 'offensively,' inserted immediately after the reference. Indeed, a few explanations have been inserted even where *no* reference is indicated by the author; as, e. g., s. v. *Croom*, on p. 47.

With respect to Dr Willan's Glossary, No. VII, Mr C. C. Robinson remarks as follows:—

'There is a certain want of character about this Glossary. Orthographical peculiarities are not made apparent, and one knows no more about the dialect-*speech* after looking through the Glossary than before. In those dales are such customs as (1) the dropping of final *ll* in such words as *call*, *ball*; (2) the change of *d* for *t*, in

¹ It will be readily understood that is is no misprint for 'pronunciation. '

The spelling of the originals has been preserved.

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words like *angered*, *flayed* (afraid); (3) the substitution of *e* for other vowels in several common words like *sit*, *was*, *not*, *but*; (4) the dental *t*, *d* [t', d']; (5) the slight use, remarkable for Yorkshire, of *th'* for the usual *t'* as an abbreviation of *the*; (6) the insertion of *w* before *o* long, as in *morn* [mwuoh'n], *notion* [nwuoh' shun], *stone* [stwuoh'n], and other peculiarities one would never dream of through reading the doctor's list. The notes on folk-lore shew a want of familiarity with the home-life of the peasantry, and one is inclined to smile at some of the pompous inferences indulged in. However it is a good old-fashioned word-list, and requires little weeding. '

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It is unnecessary to do more than indicate the interest that attaches to many of the words in these Glossaries. With respect, for example, to the phrase 'keel the pot,' in Shakespeare, Mr Halliwell decides that it simply means to *cool* the pot, and not to scum or skim it, and we may allow that the A. S. *célan* merely means *to cool*; yet we may as well note Mr Hutton's definition at p. 8, that in the North of England it means 'to keep the pot from boiling over.' It is a pity that he did not describe exactly how this is done. Another Shakesperian word is *Rack*, at p. 10. *Renable*, also at p. 10, occurs in Piers the Plowman; so also does *Dubbler*, p. 26. *Stevvon* (p. 39). occurs in Chaucer; whilst *Uvver* (p. 41) well illustrates the 'overlippe' in his Prologue to the Canterbury Tales. A large number of similar illustrations may be discovered.

The excellent alliterative proverb at p. 26 (s. v. *Dow*)—'He neither dees nor dows'—is worth notice, for its pith; one can imagine it as well expressing a hungry heir's dissatisfaction with some rich old relative who keeps him in a state of constant suspense, and will neither do one thing nor the other.

We are indebted to Mr W. Aldis Wright, of Trinity College, for the loan of the volume containing Glossary B. 2, to Mr F. K. Robinson, of Whitby, for his kind present of a copy of Glossary B. 7,¹ to Mr Shelly for some notes upon Glossary B. 6, and to Mr A. J. Ellis for some remarks upon pronunciation, made at a time when he was even more than usually busy with the preparation of work for the press.

Cambridge, Dec. 16, 1873.

Mr Robinson's copy contained Dr Willan's Glossary only, and his present was accordingly all the more acceptable. It would have been hard to purchase a single volume of a long set like that of the Archæologia.

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IV. PROVINCIALISMS OF THE VALE OF
GLOCESTER.

[THE subjoined Glossary, with the prefatory remarks on the pronunciation, &c., is reprinted from Marshall's Rural Economy of Gloucestershire, 2 vols., 8vo; Gloucester,

1789; vol. i, pp. 323—332. The quotations introduced are all taken from the same work.

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The vale which accompanies the Severn, through Gloucestershire, has a natural insection, which divides it into two districts, very different in produce and rural management. These districts, in distinction, I shall call the *upper* and the *lower* vale; or the VALE OF GLOCESTER, and the VALE OF BERKLEY

The VALE OF GLOCESTER is, in outline, somewhat semicircular: the Severn the chord, the environing hills the arch: the towns of Gloucester, Tewksbury, and Cheltenham forming a triangle within its area. Its extent, from the foot of Matson Hill to that of Bredon Hill (its outmost limit to the north) is about 15 miles: from the Severn to the foot of Dowdeswell Hill, 7 or 8 miles. The entire district, therefore, does not contain a hundred square miles. It may be estimated at fifty to sixty thousand acres (vol. i pp. 8, 10).

The verbal provincialisms of this district appear to be less numerous than those of many other provinces. I have, however, had less conversation with mere provincialists, in this, than in other districts I have resided in. Besides, it is observable, the lower class of people here are less communicative than they are perhaps in any other province: possessing a siugular reservedness toward strangers; accompanied with a guardedness of expression, bordering almost on duplicity; affording those who are observant of men and manners, in the lower walks of life, subject for reflection.

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WORDS, which relate immediately to RURAL AFFAIRS, I have endeavoured to collect. But I find they are few in number, compared with those collected in Norfolk and Yorkshire on the same subject. Indeed, a list of technical terms require a length of time, or the immediate superintendance of workmen, to render it complete.

Beside the deviations which are merely *verbal*, this quarter of the island affords, among others, one striking deviation in GRAMMAR—in the use or abuse of the pronouns. The personal pronouns are seldom used in their accepted sense; the nominative and the accusative cases being generally reversed. Thus *her* is almost invariably used for *she*; as, ‘her said so’—‘her would do it.’ sometimes *he* for *she*; as,

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‘he was bulled’—‘he calved;’ and almost invariably for *it*; all things inanimate being of the masculine gender. Beside these and various other misapplications (as, *they* for *them*—*I* for *me*, &c.), an extra pronoun is here in use—*ou*: a pronoun of the singular number—analogueous with the plural *they*—being applied either in a masculine, a feminine, or a neuter sense. Thus ‘ou wull’ expresses either *he* will, *she* will, or *it* will. ¹

This misuse of the pronoun is common to the western counties of England and to Wales; a circumstantial evidence that the inhabitants of the western side of the island are descended from one common origin. But in another striking deviation—the PRONOUNCIATION of the CONSONANTS—their propensities of speech are so diametrically opposite, and so different from any tendency of utterance, observable in the rest of the island, one might almost declare them descendants of two distinct colonies.

In Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somersetshire, &c, the ASPERATE consonants are pronounced with VOCAL POSITIONS: thus *s* becomes *z*; *f*, *v*; *t*, *d*; *p*, *b*, &c. On the contrary, in Wales, the consonants, which, in the established pronunciation, are accompanied with VOCAL POSITIONS, are there ASPERATED: hence *z* becomes *s*; *b*, *p*; *d*, *t*, &c.;—the mouth of the Severn being the boundary between these two remarkable propensities of speech. ²

[¹ He refers to the Old Eng. *a*, as used by John of Trevisa, &c.]

[² All very superficial and misleading. —Ellis. This is why the sounds on the next page are left unexplained.]

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In the PRONOUNCIATION of VOWELS this district, as Yorkshire, has some *regular* deviation from the established language; but differing, almost totally, from those which are there observable: thus the *a* slender becomes *i* or *aoy*; as *hay*, ‘high’ or ‘aoy’; *stay*, ‘sty’ or ‘zdoy’; *fair*, ‘fire’ or ‘voir’; *stare*, ‘stire’ or ‘zdoir,’ &c. The *e* long sometimes becomes *eea*; as *beans*, ‘beens’: the *i* long, *ey* (the *e* shortened by the *y* consonant); as *I* ‘ey’; *ride*, ‘reyd’: the *o* long changes here, as in the middle dialect of Yorkshire, into

ooa; as *home*, ‘hooam’ or ‘wom’;—the *u* long into *eeaw*; as *few*, ‘feeaw,’—*dew*, ‘deeaw.’

There are other deviations both in grammar and pronunciation; as, *be* is generally used for *is*; frequently *do* for *does*; and sometimes *have* for *has*. But those already mentioned are, I believe, the most noticeable, and in the most common use: I therefore proceed to explain such PROVINCIAL TERMS IN HUSBANDRY as have occurred to my knowledge in this district.

Blows, *sb. pl.* blossoms of beans, &c.

Bolt, *v.* to truss straw.

Bolting, *sb.* a truss of straw.

Braids, *sb. pl.* pronounced ‘brides’ [breidz]. See vol. ii. p. 283. The reference shews that they are ‘wicker guards,’ used in grafting for ‘defending the grafts,’ described as ‘a kind of open-work wicker basket, made somewhat in the manner of the bottle-makers’ baskets (*prickles*), with split ozier twigs, about the size of the finger.’

Brown crops, *sb. pl.* pulse; as beans, peas, &c.

Butter-leaves, *sb. pl.* See p. 285. ‘The leaves of the *atriplex hortensis*, or garden orach; which dairywomen in general sow in their gardens, annually, for this purpose [i. e. for packing butter in]. They are sufficiently large, of a fine texture, and a delicate pale green colour.’

Calf-stages, *sb. pl.* calf-pens. See p. 225. ‘A *stage* holds seven, or occasionally eight calves. The floor of the *stage* is formed of laths, about two inches square, lying lengthway of the *stage*, and one inch asunder,’ &c.

Carnation-grass, *sb. aira cæspitosa*, hassock or turfy air grass [hair-grass]; tussock grass.

Charlock, *sb. sinapis nigra*, the common mustard, in the character of a weed.

Cheese-ladder, *sb.* See p. 268. ‘Sieve-holder, provincially *cheese-ladder*. This is laid across the cooler to place the *milk-sieve* or strainer upon.’

Clay-stone, *sb.* a blue and white limestone, dug out of the subsoil of the vale.

Court, *sb.* a yard; particularly the yards in which cattle are penned in winter.

Cowground, *sb.* [a] cow-pasture.

Cowl, *sb.* a milk-cooler; cheese-tub.

Crazy, *sb.* the *ranunculus* or crowfoot tribe. See note, p. 178. ‘Creeping crowfoot, provincially creeping-*crazy*, is here esteemed as a valuable species of herbage.’

Cream-slice, *sb.* See p. 269. ‘A wooden knife, somewhat in the shape of a table-knife; length 12 or 14 inches.’

Cub, *sb.* a cattle-crib.

Dairyhouse, Deyhouse, *sb.* pronounced DYE-HOUSE [daay uuws?]; (from *dey*, an old word for milk, and *house*); the milk-house, or dairyroom. [*Deye* (in Chaucer) does not mean *milk*, but a *dairy-woman*; so also Icel. *deigja*.]

Dill, *sb.* *erum hirsutum* two-seeded tare; which has been cultivated (on the Cotswold Hills at least) time immemorial; principally for hay.

Elbows, *sb. pl.* the shoulder-points of cattle.

Evers (that is, heavers), *sb. pl.* opening stiles. See p. 41. ‘The stiles are frequently made to *open*; the top-rail having an iron bolt driven through it, at one end, the other end falling into a notch in the opposite post.’

Every year's land, *sb.* See p. 65. ‘In the neighbourhood of Gloucester are some extensive common-fields. They have been cropped, year after year, during a century, or perhaps centuries; without one intervening whole year's fallow. Hence they are called *every year's land*.’

Fallow field, *sb.* common field, which is occasionally fallowed: in distinction to ‘every year's land.’

Foddering ground, *sb.* See p. 230. ‘A small dry grass inclosure, near the homestall, provincially a *foddering-ground*.’

Green, *sb.* grassland: ‘all green’—all grass; no plowland.

Ground, *sb.* a grassland inclosure, lying out of the way of floods; contra-distinct from ‘meadow.’

Hackles, *sb. pl.* singlets of beans. See p. 151. Beans are usually ‘set up in what are termed **hackles**—singlets of unusual size.’ [Their construction is explained at great length.]

Hain, *v.* to shut up grassland from stock.

Hairif, *sb.* *galium aparine*, cleavers.

Hallier, *sb.* See *Haul*.

Ham, *sb.* a stinted common pasture for cows, &c.

Haul, *v.* to convey upon a waggon or cart, as hay, corn, or fuel: proper, but provincial: hence *Hallier*, one who hauls for hire.

Helm, *v.* to cut the ears from the stems of wheat, previous to thrashing; the unthrashed straw being called ‘*helm*.’ Not a common practice here.

Hit, *sb.* a plentiful crop of fruit.

Hove, *pp.* swoln as cheeses.

Knot. See *Not*.

Landmend, *v.* to adjust the surface with a spade or shovel, after sowing wheat; chopping the clods, lowering the protuberances and filling up the hollows.

Lease, *v.* (pronounced leeze) [leez]

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to glean: a term which is common to the western and southern provinces.

Lode, *sb.* this seems to be an old word for *Ford*; hence *Wain Lode*, *Upper Lode*, *Lower Lode*, *St. Mary de Lode*, &c.

Lug, Log, *sb.* a land measure of six yards; that is, a *rod*, *pole*, or *perch* of six yards; a measure, by which ditching, &c., is done: also the stick, with which the work is measured.

Meadow, *sb.* generally, common mowing ground, subject to be overflowed; or any low flat grassland, which has not been plowed, and is usually mown; in contradistinction to ‘ground’ and ‘ham.’

Mints, *sb. pl.* mites.

Miskin, *sb.* the common term for a dunghill; or a heap of compost.

Mop, *sb.* a statute, or hiring-day for farmers’ servants.

Mounds, *sb. pl.* field-fences of every kind.

Nast, *sb.* foulness; weeds in a fallow.

Nesh, *adj.* the common term for tender or *washy*, as spoken of a cow or horse.

Not, *pp.* polled; hornless; spoken of sheep and cattle. [Misspelt *Knot*, and inserted by Marshall under K.]

Oxey, *adj.* ox-like; of mature age; not ‘steerish.’

Pailstake, *sb.* See. 268. [A support for milkpails.] ‘A bough, furnished with many branchlets, is fixed with its but-end in the ground, in the dairy-yard. The branchlets being lopped, of a due length, each stump becomes a peg to hang a pail upon, or other utensil.’

Peasipouse, *sb.* peas and beans grown together as a crop.

Polting lug (that is, perhaps, *pelting rod*), *sb.* a long slender rod used in beating apples, &c. off the trees.

Quar, *sb.* the common term for quarry.

Rammely, *adj.* tall and rank; as beans.

Running, *sb.* rennet; the coagulum used in cheese-making.

Segs, *sb. pl. carices*, sedges.

Set, *v.* to lett, as land, &c.

Setting-pin, *sb.* [a] dibble. See *Tuckin*.

Sh, *interj.* (without a vowel) gee! in the horse language.

Shard, *sb.* a gap in a hedge; the common term.

Shepeck, *sb.* the ordinary name of a prong or hay-fork.

Siddow, *vulg.* **Ziddow**, *adj.* Peas, which become soft by boiling, are said to be ‘*siddow*:’ a well-sounding term, which is much wanting in other districts. ‘Will you warrant them *siddow*?’ is the ordinary question asked on buying peas for boiling.

Skeel, *sb.* See p. 269. ‘*Skeels* are broad shallow vessels, principally for the purpose of setting milk in, to stand for cream: made in the tub-manner, with staves and hoops, and two stave-handles: of various sizes. from 18 in. to 2 and a half ft. diameter; and from 5 to 7 in. deep.’

Slag, *sb.* copper-dross. See p. 319. ‘This, I understand, is the *scoria* thrown off by copper, in the process of smelting.’

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Steerish, *adj.* spoken of a young, raw, growing ox; not ‘oxey.’

Threave, *sb.* twenty-four boltings.

Tuckin, *sb.* a satchel used in setting beans. See p. 144. ‘Each setter is furnished with a *setting-pin* and a *tuckin*, viz. a satchel, hung before, by a string round the waist, to carry the beans in. The *setting-pin* resembles a gardener’s dibble, with, in general, a valuable improvement, a cross-pin or half-crutch near the top, to rest the palm upon; with a groove on each side of the main pin to receive the forefinger and the thumb. The length of the dibble (which is about 2 in. square in the middle, tapering conically to a sharp point) is about 8 in.; of the handle, about 4.’

Two-meal cheese, *sb.* See p. 287. The ‘one-meal cheese’ or ‘best making’ is made from ‘milk run neat from the cow, or nearly so.’ The ‘*two-meal cheese*’ is made from skimmed milk of the ‘evening’s meal,’ to which is added ‘the new milk of the morning’s meal.’

Vell, *sb.* a calf’s bag or stomach, used in making ‘running.’ See *Running*.

Wain, *sb.* an ox-cart, without side-rails.

White crops, *sb. pl.* corn: as wheat, barley, &c.

Withy, *sb. salix*, the willow.

Wunt, *sb.* a mole; hence.

Wunt-hillocks, *sb. pl.* mole-hills.

Yat, Yate, *sb.* a gate. This appears to have been once the universal name, and still remains the heraldic term for a gate.