

generally breathing).—The function of breathing; the function, by means of which the various tissues of the body are exposed to the influence of the atmosphere.

*Relapse* (Latin *re* and *labor*, I fall down).—The return of a disease, either during or very soon after convalescence.

*Retention* (Latin *retuere*, to hold back).—Accumulation of matters intended for excretion, as of the urine within the bladder.

*Rigor* (Latin *regeo*, I stiffen).—A sensation of cold, with involuntary shivering or shaking of the whole body.

*Sand-bags*.—Long, narrow bags filled with sand, which are placed against a limb to keep it in a certain position.

*Scab* (Latin *scabere*, to scratch).—An incrustation which forms upon a sore, owing to the concretion of the fluid discharged from it.

*Secretion* (Latin *secernere*, to separate).—The separation of a special substance from the blood by the action of a secernent or secreting organ or gland.

*Sedative* (Latin *sedare*, to allay).—A medicinal agent which diminishes the frequency of the pulse.

*Serous* (from *serin*, thin, watery).—Relating to the most watery portion of animal fluids, or to membranes that secrete them.

*Seton*.—A thread of silk passed under the skin, and kept there to keep up irritation.

*Sinapism* (*sinapis*, mustard).—A mustard poultice.

*Sinus* (a bag or curve).—A long narrow hollow track, leading from some abscess or diseased bone.

*Sling* (from Saxon *slingan*, to dangle, to swing).—A hanging bandage, worn round the neck for supporting a wounded arm or hand.

*Slough* (from Saxon *slog*, a gutter or slough).—A thin, foul or mortified substance in a moist state, which frequently appears on the surfaces of parts in the states of suppuration and ulceration.

*Sordes* (Latin *sordere*, to be dirty).—The foul deposit that forms on the teeth, gums, and lips in malignant disease.

*Spatula* (Latin *spathula*, a slice).—A flat instrument, used for spreading plasters, and holding down the tongue, &c.

*Splint* (from Dutch, splinter, from *spligten*, to split).—A thin piece of wood or other substance, used to hold, or confine, a broken or diseased limb, or to maintain any part of the body in a fixed position.

*Sputum* (Latin *spuere*, to spit out).—The matter expectorated by the mouth.

*Stercoraceous*.—Relating to excrement.

*Stertor* (Latin *sterto*, I snore).—The deep snoring which accompanies inspiration in some diseases.

*Stimulant* (Latin *stimulus*, a goad).—An agent which increases the vital activity of an organ.

*Stomach* (Greek *stomachos*, from *stoma*, a mouth).—It denotes, strictly, a mouth or opening, hence in the oldest Greek writers it is the throat, gullet, or oesophagus; and at a later period it designated the cardiac end of the stomach, and eventually it was applied to the stomach itself, or that membranous expansion of the alimentary canal.

*Strangulation* (Latin *strangulare*, to throttle).—Constriction arising from the application of an overtight ligature or bandage, or by the slipping of a tight ring over a part.

*Stricture* (Latin *stringere*, to bind).—A contracted state of some part of a tube or duct.

*Stupor* (Latin *stupere*, to be benumbed).—A state of insensibility.

*Stupe* (Greek *stupe*).—A piece of flannel or cloth, wrung out of hot water, and applied to a part.

*Styptic* (Greek *stuptitkos*, astringent).—An astringent application for arresting hæmorrhage.

*Suppository* (Latin *sub* and *ponere*, to put under).—A solid medicine in the form of a cone or cylinder.

*Suppuration* (Latin *sub*, beneath; *pus*, matter).—The process by which pus is formed, or deposited, on the surface, or in the substance of any tissue.

*Suspensory* (Latin *suspendere*, to suspend).—A bandage, or bag, to suspend a part.

*Suture* (Latin *suere*, to sew).—A thread of silk, catgut, or silver wire, which unites the edges of a wound.

*Symptom* (Greek *sumptomata*, anything that has befallen one).—A sign or mark by which a disease is characterised.

*Syncope* (Greek *sugkope*, a cutting up, a swoon).—Fainting or swooning.

*Tapping*.—The operation of puncturing a serous cavity in the body, and drawing off the fluid.

*Temperature* (Latin *temperare*, to mix various things in due proportions).—The state of a body, with regard to heat or cold, as indicated by the thermometer, or by its effects on other bodies.

*Tent* (Latin *tendere*, to stretch).—A small roll of lint of pyramidal shape.

*Testing* (Latin *testis*, a witness).—The art of detecting, by means of re-agents, the presence of any ingredients in a compound, by producing certain changes in its appearance and properties.

*Thermometer* (Greek *therme*, heat, and *metron*, a measure).—An instrument for measuring the degrees of heat.

*Thoracic* (Greek *thorax*).—Belonging to the thorax or chest.

*Thrombus* (Greek *thrombos*, coagulated blood).—A clot of blood.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)