

THE
BRIGHTER
FRENCH
WORD-
BOOK



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WORD-BOOK



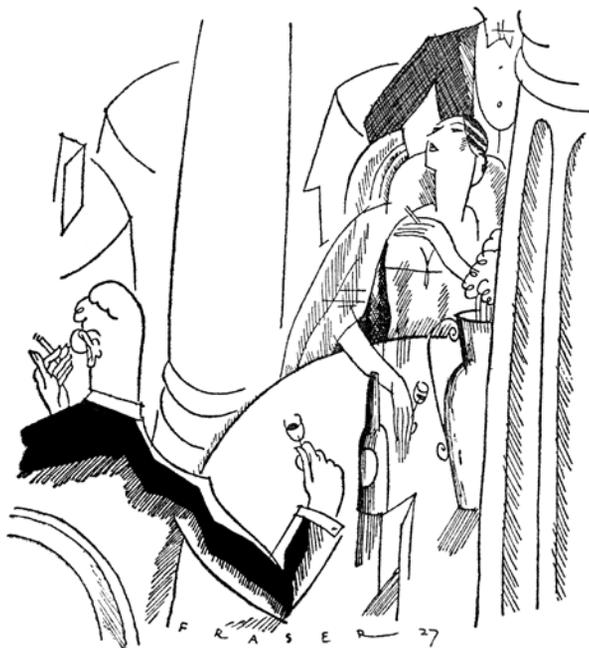
F R A S E R 27

Harry
Thompson
RUSSELL

A Guide to 'the Right Word' for
BRIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE
by the author of *Brighter French*
Harry Thompson Russell

PHAETON

— Cover illustration by Eric Fraser —



The
BRIGHTER FRENCH
WORD-BOOK

by

Harry Thompson Russell

[H—T—R—]

AUTHOR OF *BRIGHTER FRENCH*

BRIGHTER FRENCH SERIES : VOLUME II

PHAETON
PUBLISHING LTD.
— Dublin —

The Brighter French Word-Book

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR & THE ILLUSTRATOR

The author concealed his identity when he first published *Brighter French* and *The Brighter French Word-Book* in the 1920s. A description of Phaeton's search for this author, and a fuller biography of him—and of the illustrator Eric Fraser—appear in the 2010 edition of *Brighter French*.

Brief outlines of their lives are given below.

HARRY THOMPSON RUSSELL was born in Ireland in 1875 and educated in England, at Cheltenham College. At 17, he joined the British Army, was 'mentioned in Despatches' for his service in the 2nd Boer War, wrote several military manuals, including *A French-English Military Vocabulary*, and in World War I he advanced to the rank of Brevet Lieut. Colonel.

In the 1920s, his life changed dramatically when his first marriage of 24 years ended in divorce. He remarried, and he and his new wife worked for a time as private detectives in London. A daughter was born in 1927, the same year that (as 'H-T-R-') he published *Brighter French*—a huge popular success which was reprinted ten times. In 1929 he published this



companion *Word-Book*.

H-T-R- and his family lived in the south of France in the 1930s, but returned to England as war refugees, without money or possessions, in 1940. H-T-R- (then aged 65) worked for a time as a gardener, and also translated texts into English, including an Italian novel and a German biography. He died in 1953 at Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

ERIC FRASER was one of the most admired and versatile illustrators of the 20th century. Born in Westminster in London in 1902, he studied at Goldsmiths School of Art (the headmaster described him as one of the most brilliant students he ever had). Much of his



work is well-known, such as his illustrations for *Radio Times*, his iconic 'Mr Therm' (used for over 30 years by the gas industry) his London Underground posters, his fashion illustration for *Harper's*

Bazaar, etc. He did memorable stained glass design, and book illustration for the Folio Society and for the Limited Editions Club of America. He was much admired for his skill at capturing the essence of a text in his illustrations. His first book illustrations were for *Brighter French* in 1927, one of which is on the cover of this *Word-Book*. He died at Hampton in 1983.

FOREWORD [of 1929]

by
H-T-R—

IN *BRIGHTER FRENCH*, Bright Young People seeking to attain fluency in that language were urged to learn to think as a Frenchman thinks.

When some progress has been made in that direction the importance of an adequate and up-to-date vocabulary becomes evident. It is distressing to be forced into halting circumlocutions by ignorance of 'the right word.' So, the very gratifying success of *Brighter French* has suggested a *Word-Book* dealing (like its predecessor) with the real things we see, do, read about, and talk about in the everyday life of this strenuous, practical and mechanised age.

In attempting to meet this demand the Compiler has endeavoured to give useful 'words' for a limited number of useful subjects, without dipping too deeply into technicalities, and without cumbering the text with the elementary things that should have been learned at school.

In general, an alphabetical arrangement has purposely been avoided. The intention is to

present the 'words,' as far as may be possible, in logical sequence, much as our theatre programmes give us 'the characters in the order of their appearance.'

It is believed that a compilation of this kind will be found useful not only by those who travel and do business with French-speaking peoples, but also by those who are preparing for the grim ordeal of Examinations.

The Predominant Sex, too, will find that its special requirements have not been overlooked.

H—T—R—

LONDON,
March 1929

ABBREVIATIONS & NOTES

Abbreviations retained within the text are as follows:

<i>adj.</i>	adjectif	adjective
<i>f.</i>	féminin	feminine form
<i>fam.</i>	familier	familiar form
<i>h asp.</i>	« <i>h</i> » aspiré	' <i>h</i> ' aspirate
<i>invar.</i>	invariable ¹	invariable in plural ¹
<i>n.f.</i>	nom féminin	feminine noun
<i>n.m.</i>	nom masculin	masculine noun
<i>pl.</i>	pluriel	plural
<i>pop.</i>	populaire	popular usage
<i>p.p.</i>	participe passé	past participle
<i>pron.</i>	prononcé :	pronounced:
<i>sing.</i>	singulier	singular
<i>v.a.</i>	verbe actif ²	(active verb)
	(~ <i>verbe transitif</i>)	~ verb, transitive
<i>v. imper.</i>	verbe impersonnel	verb, impersonal
<i>v.n.</i>	verbe neutre ²	(neuter verb)
	(~ <i>verbe intransitif</i>)	~ verb, intransitive
<i>v.r.</i>	verbe pronominal	verb, reflexive
<i>v.a. or n.</i>	verbe actif ou neutre ²	(verb, trans. or intrans.)

NOTES:

¹ The French spelling reform (of 1990) provides *optional* alternative spelling for some previously invariable plurals.

² Prior to 1932 standardisation as '*transitif*' or '*intransitif*', French verbs were generally described '*actif*' or '*neutre*'.

In this edition of *The Brighter French Word-Book* (and in the 2010 *Brighter French*) a small number of some original (1927/1929) abbreviations are adjusted, as follows:

In accordance with modern usage, 'F' or 'francs' are used in place of 'frs.' 'fr.' & 'fcs.' (as were in the original editions).

Similarly, 1^{re} and 2^e are used in place of 1^{ère} and 2^me, and 'M.' in place of 'M^r' (*'monsieur'*).

In the case of terms or words not widely known or not readily found in dictionaries (e.g. '*une parmenture*' [p.71], '*la hussarde*' (of breeches) [p.84], '*une toletière*' [p.150] etc., in French; or 'a clock' (of stockings) [p.79], 'to luff' [p.155], 'a right-and-left' [pp.234 & 269] etc., in English) some notes or alternative words are added to the original text (with brackets around less usual terms or spellings).

In the 2010 editions of *Brighter French* and *The Brighter French Word-Book*, French text and English text has been typeset in accordance with the different typographical conventions applying for each language.

This edition incorporates additional photographs, including images from the cinema of the period.

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—I—

WEATHER

LE TEMPS, LA TEMPÉRATURE



WEATHER
LE TEMPS, LA TEMPÉRATURE

Une prévision.	A weather forecast.
Une averse.	A (heavy) rain-shower.
Des averses éparses.	Heavy showers in places.
Une ondée.	A light, passing rain-shower.
Une giboulée.	A sleet- or hail-shower.
Une bruine.	A drizzle.
La pluie, (pleuvoir, <i>v. imper.</i>)	Rain.
La neige, (neiger, <i>v. imper.</i>)	Snow.
Un flocon (de neige).	A snow-flake.
La grêle, (grêler, <i>v. imper.</i>)	Hail.
Un grêlon.	A hailstone.
Le grésil, (grésiller, <i>v. imper.</i>)	Sleet.
La rosée.	Dew.
Une brume.	A mist, haze, fog.
Un brouillard.	A thick fog.

Overleaf image:

La Tour Eiffel foudroyée — photograph taken 3 June 1902, from his balcony on avenue du Trocadéro, by the artist Gabriel Loppé (born Montpellier 1825, died Paris 1913).

—2—

IN TOWN

À LA VILLE



IN TOWN
À LA VILLE

À la ville means ‘in town’ (as opposed to *à la campagne*).

En ville (e.g. *diner en ville*) means ‘out’ (as opposed to *chez soi*).

Un boulevard.	A boulevard (usually lined with trees).
Une avenue.	A wide thoroughfare (usually lined with trees).
Une place.	An open space or square.
Un square (<i>pron.</i> skou-à-re)	A square, surrounding a railed garden or enclosure.
Une rue.	A street; thoroughfare.
Un passage.	A passage (for pedestrians only).
Une impasse.	A street with no exit; a cul-de-sac.
Une rue unique.	A ‘one-way’ street.
Sens interdit ! (<i>pron.</i> sanns).	No entry! (one-way street).

Overleaf image:

The depiction of a city at night, from *Grand Hôtel*, 1932.

Director: Edmund Goulding. Art Director: Cedric Gibbons.

(*Titre français : Grand Hôtel.*)

—3—

ROUND THE HOUSE

AUTOUR DE LA MAISON



ROUND THE HOUSE
AUTOUR DE LA MAISON

La grille.	The entrance gate.
Le pavillon (<i>ou, la</i> maisonnette) du garde.	The lodge; <i>or</i> gate-lodge.
L'avenue, <i>n.f.</i>	The avenue.
Le gravier.	Gravel.
Une allée.	A path; walk.
La terrasse.	The terrace.
<i>La cour.</i>	The courtyard.
La porte cochère.	The courtyard gate.
Un perron.	A flight of steps (<i>outside</i>).
Un degré ; <i>ou</i> une marche.	A step (of a flight).
<i>Le porche.</i>	The porch.
La porte (d'entrée.)	The hall door.
Le marteau ; <i>ou</i> l'heurtoir.	The door-knocker.
Le bouton de sonnette.	The bell-push.
Le cordon de sonnette.	The bell-pull.
Un décrottoir.	A boot-scraper.
Un essuie-pieds, <i>n.m.</i> <i>invar.</i>	A door-mat.
Un tapis-brosse (<i>pl. -s</i>).	A (fibre, etc.) door-mat.
Un contrevent (<i>pron. -van</i>).	An (outside) window- shutter.

Overleaf image:

The Professor (Harpo Marx) chases a fellow house party guest (Ann Roth) around the fashionable Long Island mansion of Mrs Rittenhouse (Margaret Dumont) in *Animal Crackers*, 1930. Director: Victor Heerman. Art Director: Ernst Fegté (uncredited). (*Titre français: L'Explorateur en folie.*)

Un médicament externe.	A medicament for external use.
Un médicament interne.	A medicament for internal use.
Un onguent.	An ointment.
Enduire de —, <i>v.a.</i>	To smear with —.
Badigeonner à —.	To paint with —.
Frictionner avec —.	To rub with —.
Un gargarisme.	A gargle.
Un cataplasme.	A poultice.
Une potion.	A draught.
Un comprimé ; (<i>ou</i> , une tabloïde).	A tablet; (a tabloid).
Une pastille.	A lozenge.
Les pastilles <i>contre</i> la toux.	Cough-lozenges.
Une pilule.	A pill.
Un suppositoire.	A suppository.
Un bandage (<i>ou</i> , une bande) périodique.	A sanitary towel (ladies').
Une fiole.	A phial.
Une ampoule.	An ampoule (sealed glass bulb).
Le coton hydrophile.	Absorbent cotton-wool.
Un laxatif.	A laxative preparation.

—5—

HAIRDRESSING AND BEAUTY TREATMENT, ETC.

LA COIFFURE, ETC.



HAIRDRESSING, MANICURE,
CHIROPODY, BEAUTY TREATMENT
LA COIFFURE, ETC.

La coiffure.	Hairdressing (generally). <i>or</i> Style of hairdressing. <i>or</i> A head-dress.
Un coiffeur (-euse). Un coiffeur <i>pour</i> dames.	A hairdresser. A ladies' hairdresser.
Prendre un rendez-vous chez son coiffeur.	To fix an appointment with one's hairdresser.
Un rendez-vous <i>pour</i> — heures.	An appointment at — o'clock.
La chevelure.	The hair (of the head).
Le cuir chevelu.	The scalp.
Le front.	The forehead.
La nuque.	The back of the neck.
Les tempes, <i>n.f. pl.</i>	The temples.
Couper les cheveux, <i>v.a.</i>	To cut the hair.
Rafraîchir " <i>v.a.</i>	To trim the hair.
Onduler " <i>v.a.</i>	To wave the hair.
Friser " <i>v.a. ; ou</i>	
boucler " <i>v.a.</i>	To curl the hair.

Overleaf image:

Stan Laurel, in a World War I bunker, uses the tools available to dress his hair. From *Pack Up Your Troubles*, 1932. Directed by George Marshall and Raymond McCarey, produced by Hal Roach. (*Titre français : Les Sans-soucis.*)

—6—

DRESSMAKING & CLOTHES

LA COUTURE



DRESSMAKING & CLOTHES
LA COUTURE

Un couturier (-ière).	A dressmaker.
Un dessinateur.	A designer.
Un tailleur.	A tailor.
Un tailleur à façon.	A tailor who will make up customers' own materials.
Une robe d'après-midi.	An afternoon frock.
" " d'intérieur.	An indoor frock.
" " de ville.	A smart town frock.
" " <i>du soir</i> .	An evening gown.
" " de grand soir.	A 'full-dress' evening dress.
" " de danse ; (à danser).	A dance-frock.
Une robe de style.	A 'picture' or 'period' dress.
" " discrète.	A quiet dress.
" " habillée.	A smart dress.
" " de mariée.	A wedding dress.
Un fourreau.	A sheath- (close-fitting) dress.
Un travesti.	A fancy dress.
<i>Un</i> costume.	A dress; suit; costume.
Un tailleur.	A tailor-made (dress).

Overleaf image:

John Kent (Randolph Scott)—reluctant heir to the Parisian couture house 'Roberta'—banishes a dress he dislikes. Earlier he had explained: 'I can't be a dressmaker. I've got a football team to coach.'

From *Roberta*, 1935. Director: William Seiter. Gown Design: Bernard Newman. Producer: Pandro Berman.

(Titre français & original : Roberta.)

Amincissant, <i>part.</i>	Giving effect of slenderness.
Ampleur, <i>n.f.</i>	Fullness.
Ramener l'amp. devant.	To give fullness in front.
" " de côté.	To give fullness at the side.
Au-corps.	Clinging; close-fitting.
Une bande.	A strip (of material); a strap.
— en biais.	On the slant, on the bias.
Une bigarrure.	A (distasteful) mixture of styles or colours.
Bordé de —.	Edged with —.
Bouffant, <i>adj.</i>	Puffed; puffed-out.
Une bretelle.	A shoulder-strap.
Une ceinture.	A belt; sash.
" " peau.	A leather belt.
Cintré, <i>adj.</i>	Shaped.
Un col.	A collar.
" " montant.	A high collar.
" " droit.	A stand-up collar.
" " bas.	A low collar.
" " capuchon.	A hooded collar.
" " châle.	A shawl collar.
" " Claudine.	An Eton collar.
Collant, <i>adj.</i>	Clinging; tight-fitting.
Une collerette.	A small collar of organdie, etc.

Copier une robe <i>sur</i> (une autre).	To copy a dress from (another).
Le corsage.	The bodice.
Cousu, <i>p.p.</i>	Sewn.
Cousu main.	Hand-sewn.
Un crevé.	A slit; opening; slash.
La croisure.	The cross-over, wrap-over (of front of a coat).
Le décolleté.	The neck-opening of an evening frock, (<i>see</i> 'encolure').
" " du dos.	The neck-opening at back.
Découper, <i>v.a.</i>	To cut out; scollop.
Les découpes.	Scollops.
Discret, <i>adj.</i>	Quiet, sober.
Doublé de —, <i>p.p.</i>	Lined with —.
La doublure.	The lining.
Drapé de —, <i>p.p.</i>	Draped with —.
Drapé devant.	Draped in front.
" de côté.	Draped at the side.
" souple.	Loosely draped.
Une écharpe.	A scarf; tie; neck-tie.
Emmailloter, <i>v.a.</i> (<i>pron.</i> an-mall-o-té).	To swathe; wrap closely.
L'emmanchure, <i>n.f.</i>	The arm-hole.
Un empiècement.	A yoke.
L'encolure.	The neck-opening (of a day-frock).

—13—

NAUTICAL MATTERS

LA MARINE



NAUTICAL MATTERS

LA MARINE

[NOTE: In French the words *navire* and *bateau*, and in English the words *vessel* and *boat* (except in 'gunboat'), should not be applied to a warship. *Vaisseau* and *ship* are correct. Again, in English, one should say 'in' or 'aboard' a ship, not 'on' a ship, but in French *sur*, or *à bord de* —, are correct.]

La marine.	The sea-service. <i>or</i> Nautical matters. <i>or</i> The art of navigation. <i>or</i> Naval forces.
La marine de guerre.	The Navy.
" " marchande (<i>ou</i> de commerce).	The Merchant Service.
Un marin.	A seafaring man.
Un matelot.	A seaman.
Un équipage.	A crew.
La flotte de guerre.	The Fighting Fleet.
Un vaisseau-amiral (<i>pl.</i> -x-aux).	A flagship.
Un cuirassé.	A battleship.
Un croiseur de bataille.	A battle-cruiser.
Un croiseur.	A cruiser.
" " léger.	A light cruiser.

Overleaf image:

Ellie Andrews (Claudette Colbert) escapes her millionaire father's plans for her by jumping from his yacht. From *It Happened One Night*, 1934. Directed by Frank Capra.
(*Titre français* : *New York - Miami.*)

La cloche.	The ship's bell.
La cloche a piqué six.	Six bells have gone.
Une vague.	A wave (in general).
Une lame.	A 'sea' (large wave).
Une houle.	A swell.
Les moutons, <i>n.m. pl.</i>	White-horses.
Le sillage.	The wake (of a ship).
Le roulis.	Rolling.
Le tangage.	Pitching.
Rouler bas.	To roll heavily.
Donner à (<i>ou de</i>) la bande.	To heel over.
Bourlinguer, <i>v.n.</i>	To labour (in a seaway).
Un bon vent.	A favourable wind.
Un vent contraire.	A head wind.
Un vent fait.	A steady breeze.
Souffler dur, <i>v.n.</i>	To blow hard.
Une côte basse et en pente.	A low shelving shore.
Une côte accore.	A steep-to (<i>precipitous</i>) shore.
Déferler, <i>v.n.</i>	To break (of the sea on rocks, etc.)
Un écueil.	A reef (of rocks).
Un brisant.	A reef on which the sea is breaking.

UN VOILIER	A SAILING-SHIP
La misaine.	The foremast.
Le grand mât.	The main-mast.
L'artimon.	The mizzen-mast.
Le beaupré.	The bowsprit.
Le boute-hors de foc.	The jib-boom.
Une vergue.	A yard-arm.
Une corne.	A gaff.
Un boute-hors.	A boom.
La voilure.	The sails, spread of sail.
Une voile.	A sail.
Hisser une voile ; <i>ou</i> déferler " " .	To hoist (set) a sail.
Carguer une voile.	To take in (furl) a sail.
Un ris (<i>pron. ri</i>).	A reef (of a sail).
Prendre un ris.	To take in a reef.
Larguer un ris.	To shake out a reef.
Amener une voile.	To take in a sail.
Mettre en panne.	To heave to.
Filer vent arrière.	To run before the wind.
Louvoyer, <i>v.n.</i>	To beat to windward.
Filer à sec (de toile).	To run under bare poles.
Lofer, <i>v.n.</i>	To luff (<i>sail nearer the wind</i>).
Un bord.	A tack, a leg.
Virer de bord, <i>v.n.</i>	To go about.
Choquer les écoutees.	To haul in the sheets; to close-haul.

La viticulture.	Vine cultivation.
<i>Un</i> vignoble.	A vineyard.
La vigne.	The vine.
Le raisin.	The grape (the fruit).
Une grappe.	A bunch (of grapes).
Un cep.	A vine stem, stock.
Une greffe.	A graft.
Greffer, <i>v. a.</i>	To graft.
La vendange.	The grape-gathering, vintage (harvest).
Le millésime.	The vintage (year).
Vendanger, <i>v. a.</i>	To gather grapes.
Un pressoir.	A wine-press.
Pressurer, <i>v. a.</i>	To press the grapes.
Le moût (<i>pron.</i> mou).	The unfermented juice.
Une cuve.	A fermenting vessel, vat.
Une cuvée.	The contents of a vat.

—17—

HORSES

LES CHEVAUX



Overleaf image:

Handlers struggle to control Solitude, the horse which the Princesse Jeanette (Jeanette McDonald) has selected 'to test' the unknown Maurice (Maurice Chevalier) in an upcoming stag hunt.

'Do you know why they call him Solitude?' asks Vicomte de Varéze (Charles Ruggles). 'Because he always comes home alone.'

From *Love Me Tonight*, 1932. Director & Producer: Rouben Mamoulian. Music: Rodgers and Hart. (*Titre français : Aimez-moi ce soir.*)

HORSES

LES CHEVAUX

Un cheval de course.	A racehorse.
Un pur-sang.	A thoroughbred.
Un demi-sang.	A half-bred.
Un cheval de selle.	A saddle-horse.
Un bidet.	A hack.
Un cheval de trait.	A draught-horse.
Un cheval de bât.	A pack-horse.
Un canasson.	An ugly nag.
Une claquette.	A 'screw' (unsound animal).
Un étalon.	A stallion.
Un cheval entier.	An entire.
Un hongre (<i>h asp.</i>)	A gelding.
Une jument.	A mare.
" (") poulinière.	A brood mare.
Un poulain.	A colt.
Une pouliche.	A filly.
Un poney	A pony.
(<i>pron.</i> po-nè).	
Hennir (<i>pron.</i> hè-nir).	To neigh.
Un hennissement	A neigh.
(<i>pron.</i> hè-ni-se-man).	
Pouliner, <i>v.n.</i>	To foal.

S'emporter, <i>v.n.</i>	To bolt.
Porter le nez au vent.	To star-gaze.
Broncher, <i>v.n.</i>	To stumble.
Être ombrageux.	To be nervous, apt to shy.
Faire des écarts.	To shy.
Faire tête à queue.	To whip round (suddenly).
Être hargneux (<i>ou</i> méchant).	To be bad-tempered.
Coucher les oreilles.	To set the ears back, (sign of ill-temper).

DIVERS

SUNDRIES

Dresser un cheval.	To break (school) a horse.
Le côté montoir, (<i>gauche</i>).	The near side (of a horse).
Le côté hors-montoir.	The off side, (<i>right</i>).
Un montoir.	A mounting-block.
Monter (à cheval), <i>v.n.</i>	To ride; <i>or</i> to mount.
Mettre pied à terre.	To dismount.
Un éperon.	A spur.
Une molette.	A rowel (of a spur).
La bride.	The strap (of a spur).
Le sous-pied.	The (under) strap.

MALADIES ET
ACCIDENTSSICKNESS AND
ACCIDENTS

Boiter, <i>v.n.</i>	To go lame.
Corner, <i>v.n.</i>	To roar.
Tousser, <i>v.n.</i>	To cough.
Bouder sur son avoine.	To be off his feed.
<i>Le vertigo.</i>	Staggers (<i>disease of</i> <i>nervous system</i>).
La colique.	Colic (<i>gastrointestinal</i>).
La morve.	Glanders (<i>an infection</i>).
La pousse.	Broken wind (<i>heaves</i>).
Le lampas.	Lampas (<i>a congestion</i>).
Un épervin, (éparvin).	A spavin (<i>hock growth</i>).
Un suros.	A splint (<i>growth on</i> <i>cannon bone</i>).
Une tare.	A curb (<i>swelling at hock</i>).
Un vessigon.	A thoroughpin (<i>a</i> <i>swelling above hock</i>).
Une entorse.	A sprain.
Une sole meurtrie.	A bruised sole.
Les tendons foulés.	Strained tendons.
Une nerf-férule (<i>pl. -s-s</i>).	An over-reach (<i>by hind</i> <i>leg striking front leg</i>).
Un cheval poussif.	A broken-winded horse (<i>breathless</i>).
Un cheval couronné.	A broken-kneed horse (<i>damaged by falling</i>).

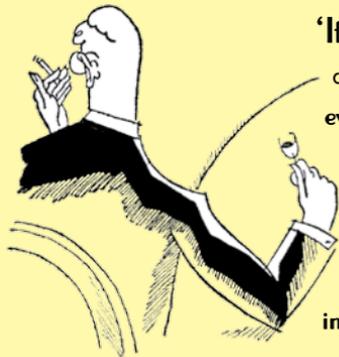
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