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meningococcus to mercantilism

of the pia mater and arachnoid, caused by a bacterial or viral infection and characterized by high fever, severe headache, and stiff neck or back muscles [1820-30] — **men-in-git'ic** (-jil'ik), *adj.*

men-in-go-coc-cus (mə ning'gō kok'əs), *n.*, *pl.* -coc-ci (-kok'si, -sē). a spherical or kidney-shaped bacterium, *Neisseria meningitidis*, that causes cerebrospinal meningitis. [1890-95; < NL] — **me-nin-go-coc-cal**, **me-nin-go-coc-cic** (-kok'ik, -kok'sik), *adj.*

men-nis-cus (mi nis'kəs), *n.*, *pl.* -nis-ci (-nis'i, -nis'ki, -kē), -nis-cus-es. 1. a crescent or a crescent-shaped body. 2. the convex or concave upper surface of a column of liquid, the curvature of which is caused by surface tension. 3. a concavo-convex or convexo-concave lens. 4. a wedge of cartilage between the articulating ends of the bones in certain joints. [1685-95; < NL < Gk *mēniskos* crescent, dim. of *mēnē* moon]

Men-lo Park' (men'lō), *n.* a village in central New Jersey, SE of Plainfield: site of Thomas Edison's laboratory, 1876-87.

Men-ning-er (men'ning ər), *n.* Karl Augustus, 1893-1990, U.S. psychiatrist.

Men-non-ite (men'nō nit'), *n.* a member of a Protestant sect that refuses oaths and the bearing of arms and is noted for simplicity of living. [1555-65; < G *Menonit*, after *Menno* Simons (1492-1559), Friisian religious leader; see *-ite*] — **Men'no-nit-ism**, *n.*

meno-, a combining form meaning "month," "menstrual cycle": *menopause*. Also, *esp.* before a vowel, *men-*. [*<* Gk *mēno*, comb. form of *mēn* month; see *MOON*]

men-o-pause (men'ə pōz'), *n.* the period of natural cessation of menstruation, usu. occurring between the ages of 45 and 55. [1870-75; < F] — **men'o-pau'sal**, *adj.*

men-or-ah (mə nōr'ə, -nōr'ə), *n.* 1. a candelabrum used in the Temple and in modern synagogues. 2. a nine-branched candelabrum used during Hanukkah. [1885-90; < Heb *menōrah*]

menorah
(def 2)



Men-or-ca (Sp. me nōr'ka), *n.* MISOACA

men-or-rha-gi-a (men'ə rā'jē ə, -jə), *n.* excessive menstrual discharge.

men-or-rhe-a or **men-or-rhoe-a** (men'ə rē'ə), *n.* menstrual flow. [1855-60] — **men'or-rhe'al**, **men'or-rhe'ic**, *adj.*

Men-not-ti (mə nōt'ē), *n.* Gian Carlo (jān), born 1911, U.S. composer, born in Italy.

men-sal (men'səl), *adj.* of, pertaining to, or used at the table. [1400-50; late ME < L *mēnsālis* of a table < L *mensa* table]

mensch (mench), *n.*, *Informal*. a decent and responsible person. [1950-55; < Yiddish *mentsh* man, human being < MHG *mensch*, OHG *menisco*, *mannisco*; see *MAM*, *-ish*]

men-ses (men'sēz), *n.* (used with a *sing.* or *pl. v.*) the menstrual flow. [1590-1600; < L *mēnsēs*, *pl.* of *mēnsis* month]

Men-she-vik (men'sha vik), *n.*, *pl.* -viks, -vik-i (-vik'ē, -vē'kē) (sometimes *Lc.*) a member of the moderate wing of the Russian Social-Democratic Workers' Party which, in opposition to the Bolsheviks, advocated gradual development of socialism through reforms. [1905-10; < Russ *men'shevik* = *mēn'sh(i)* lesser + *-evik*, *n.* suffix] — **Men'she-ivism** (-viz'əm), *n.* — **Men'she-ivist**, *n.*, *adj.*

men's' room', *n.* a public lavatory for men. [1925-30, *Amer.*]

mens sa-na in cor-po-re sa-no (mens sā'nā in kōr'pō rē' sā'nō; Eng. *menz sā'nā in kōr'pō rē' sā'nō*), *Latin*. a sound mind in a sound body.

men-stru-al (men'strō əl, -strəl), *adj.* of or pertaining to menstruation. [1350-1400; ME < L]

men-stru-ate (men'strō ət', -strāt), *v.t.*, *-at-ed*, *-at-ing*. to undergo menstruation. [1640-50; < LL *mēnstruātus*, *ptp.* of *mēnstruāre* der. of L *mēnstrua* menstrual discharge, *n.* use of neut. *pl.* of *mēnstruus* monthly = *mēnstr-* (see *SEMESTER*) + *-uus* *adj.* suffix]

men-stru-a-tion (men'strō ə'shən, -strā'-.), *n.* 1. the periodic discharge of blood and mucosal tissue from the uterus, occurring approximately monthly from puberty to menopause in nonpregnant women and females of other primate species. 2. the period of menstruating. [1700-80] — **men'stru-ous** (-strō əs, -strəs), *adj.*

men-stru-um (men'strō əm, -strəm), *n.*, *pl.* -stru-ums, -stru-a (-strō ə). SOLVENT (def. 3). [1605-15; < NL, *Mf.* *menstruum*, taken as *sing.* of L *menstrua* menstrual discharge]

men-sur-a-ble (men'shər ə bəl, -sər ə), *adj.* MEASURABLE. [1595-1605; < LL *mēnsurābilis* = L *mēnsūrā(re)* to measure + *-bilis* -ible]

men-su-ral (men'shər əl, -sər-), *adj.* pertaining to measure. [1600-10; < LL]

men-su-ra-tion (men'shə rā'shən, -sə-), *n.* the act or process of measuring. [1565-75; < LL] — **men'su-ra-tive**, *adj.*

mens-wear (menz/wār'), *n.* 1. Also, **men's' wear'**, apparel and accessories for men. 2. cloth, esp. wool, used in making men's and often women's tailored garments. [1905-10]

-ment, a suffix of nouns that denote an action or resulting state (*abridgment*; *refreshment*), a product (*fragment*), or means (*ornament*). [*<* F < L *mentum*, suffix forming nouns, usu. from verbs]

men-tal' (men'tl), *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to the mind. 2. of, pertain-

ing to, or affected by a disorder of the mind, *a mental patient*. 3. of persons with a psychiatric disorder. *a mental hospital*. 4. pertaining to or existing in the mind *mental arithmetic*. 5. pertaining to intellectuals or intellectual activity. 6. *Informal*. insane, crazy. [1375-1425; < LL *mentalis* = L *ment-* MIND + *-ālis* -al] — **men-tal-ly**, *adv.* *ment(um)* the chin + *-al*]

men'tal age', *n.* the level of mental ability of an individual, esp. a child, expressed as the chronological age of the average individual at this level of ability, as determined by an intelligence test [1910-15]

men'tal defi-ci-ency, *n.* (no longer in technical use) MENTAL RETARDATION.

men'tal health', *n.* psychological well-being and satisfactory adjustment to society and to the ordinary demands of life. [1825-35]

men'tal ill-ness, *n.* any of various forms of psychosis or severe neurosis. Also called **men'tal dis-or-d-er**, **men'tal disease'**. [1900-05]

men-tal-ism (men'tl iz'əm), *n.* the doctrine that objects of knowledge have no existence except in the mind of the perceiver. [1870-75] — **men'tal-ist'ic**, *adj.*

men-tal-ist (men'tl ist), *n.* 1. a person who believes in or advocates mentalism. 2. a mind reader or fortune-teller. [1780-90]

men-tal-i-ty (men tal'i tē), *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. mental capacity or endowment. 2. mental inclination; outlook: *a liberal mentality*. [1685-95]

men'tal retarda-tion, *n.* a developmental disorder characterized by varying degrees by a subnormal ability to learn, a substantially low IQ, and impaired social adjustment. [1900-15]

men-ta-tion (men tā'shən), *n.* mental activity. [1840-50; < L *ment-* (s. of *mēns*) MIND + *-ation*]

men-thol (men'thōl, -thol), *n.* a colorless, crystalline, slightly water-soluble alcohol, C₁₀H₁₈O, obtained from mint oil or synthesized; used chiefly in perfumes, cigarettes, and foods and in nasal medications. [1875-80; < G < NL *Mentha* (see *MINT*) + G *-ol* -ol-]

men-tho-lat-ed (men'thə lā'tid), *adj.* containing, covered, or treated with menthol. [1930-35]

men-tion (men'shən), *v.t.* 1. to refer briefly to; name, specify, or speak of. 2. to cite formally for a meritorious act or achievement. — *n.* 3. a brief or incidental reference; a mentioning. 4. formal recognition for a meritorious act or achievement. — *Idiom*. 5. **not to mention**, in addition to: *They own two houses, not to mention a boat* [1250-1300; ME *mencioun* < AF < L *mentio* reference, mention, *men-* (base of *mēns* mind (see *MENTAL*)) + *-tio* -TION] — **men'tion-able**, *adj.* — **men'tion-er**, *n.*

Men-ton (men tōn'; Fr. *mān tōn'*), *n.* a city in SE France, on the Mediterranean; resort. 25,072. Italian, **Men-to-ne** (men tō'nē)

men-tor (men'tōr, -tər), *n.* 1. a wise and trusted counselor or teacher. 2. (*cap.*) (in the *Odyssey*) a loyal adviser of Odysseus entrusted with the education of Telemachus. — *v.t.* 3. to act as a mentor. — *v.t.* 4. to act as a mentor to. [1740-50; < Gk]

men-u (men'yū, mā'nyū), *n.*, *pl.* **men-us**. 1. a list of the dishes that can or will be served at a meal. 2. the dishes served. 3. any list or set of items from which to choose. 4. a list of options available to a user, as displayed on a computer or TV screen. [1650-60; < F, detailed list, *n.* use of *menu* small, detailed < L *minutus* minute]

me-nu-driv-en, *adj.* of or pertaining to computer software that uses menus to enable users to choose options. [1975-80]

Men-u-hin (men'yū in), *n.* Ye-hu-dī (ya hōō'dē), born 1916, U.S. violinist.

Men-zies (men'zēz), *n.* Sir Robert Gordon, 1894-1978, prime minister of Australia 1939-41 and 1949-66

me-ow (mē ōw', myūw), *n.* 1. the characteristic sound a cat makes. 2. a spiteful or catty remark. — *v.t.* 3. to make the sound of a cat. 4. to make a spiteful or catty remark. [1870-75; *imit.*]

me-per-i-dine (mə pēr'i dēn', -dīn), *n.* a narcotic compound, C₁₇H₁₇NO₂, used as an analgesic and sedative. [1945-50, *ME*(HYG) + (P)PBRIDINE]

Meph-i-stoph-e-les (mef'ə stōf'ə lēz') also **Me-phis-to** (mə fis'tō), *n.* (in the Faust legend) the devil who tempts Faust. — **Meph-is-to-pher-ic**, **Meph-is-to-pher-ic** (stō fē'fē əj), *adj.*

me-phis-tic (mə fis'tik), *adj.* 1. offensive to the smell. 2. noxious, pestilential. [1615-25; < LL] — **me-phis-tic-al-ly**, *adv.*

me-phis-tis (mə fis'tis), *n.* 1. a noxious exhalation from the earth, as poison gas. 2. any foul or poisonous stench. [1700-10; < L *mephistis*]

me-pro-ba-mate (mə prō'bə māt', mēp'rō bām'āt), *n.* a white powder, C₁₂H₁₇N₃O₂, used chiefly as a tranquilizer. [1950-55, *ME*(HYG) + PRO(PVI) + [CAR]BAMATE]

-mer, a combining form used in the names of classes of molecules, chemical compounds, etc., that exhibit the feature specified by the initial element: *elastomer*, *monomer*. [extracted from *ISOMER* or *POLYMER*]

mer, 1. meridian. 2. meridional

mer-bro-min (mār brō'min), *n.* a green, water-soluble powder, C₂₀H₁₂Br₂HgNa₂O₄, that forms a red solution in water; used as an antiseptic and as a germicide. [1940-45; MER(CURIC) + BROM(INE) + -in]

mer-can-tile (mūr'kan tēl', -tīl', -tīl), *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to merchants or trade; commercial. 2. of or pertaining to mercantilism [1635-45; < F < It. = *mercantile*] (< L *mercāns*, *prp.* of *mercāre* to trade; see *MERCHANT*) + *-ile* -ile]

mer-can-til-ism (mūr'kan tī liz'əm, tē-, tī-), *n.* 1. an economic and political policy, evolving with the modern nation-state, in which a government regulated the national economy with a view to the accumulation of gold and silver, esp. by achieving a balance of exports over imports. 2. mercantile practices or spirit; commercialism. [1876-75; < F] — **mer-can-til-ist**, *n.*, *adj.* — **mer-can-til-ist'ic**, *adj.*