Equilibrium (in physics): Ger. Gleichgewicht; Fr. équilibre; Ital. equilibrio. The state of a body which is free to move, and acted on by forces so related that they neutralize each other, so that the body has no tendency to move. In order that a system of forces may produce equilibrium, the resultant of the forces, both that of translation and that of rotation, must vanish. If the forces producing equilibrium are such that when the body acted on is slightly displaced, it tends to return to its place, the equilibrium is called stable; if it tends to move still further from the position, it is called unstable; if the equilibrium remains undisturbed, it is called indifferent or mobile. If a wheel free to turn on a horizontal axis has a weight attached to its rim, it is in stable equilibrium when the weight is directly below the axis; in unstable, when the weight is vertically above the axis.

Equilibrium (sensation of): Ger. Gleichgewichtssinn; Fr. sensation d'équilibre, sens de l'équilibre; It. senso dell'equilibrio. The sensation arising from the correct balancing of the body. Its existence is in evidence principally when it is disturbed.

The 'sense' of equilibrium is apparently built up from the muscular, cutaneous, and pressure senses, and from visual perception. At the same time there seems to be no doubt that the semicircular canals of the ear (see Static Sense, also for literature) arouse and sustain a permanent muscular tone, which contributes greatly to the maintenance of equilibrium. The growth of the secondary associations may be observed in the child learning to hold the head erect. Cf. Dizziness.

Equipoise or -cy [Lat. æquus, equal; -pole, to balance]: Ger. Äquivalenz; Fr. équivalence; Itl. equi-pollanza. The relation between two propositional forms which represent the same fact. It translates the Gr. ἀναφορά.

There has been a twofold tradition on the nature of equipoise: one, as stated above, restricting it to the qualitative; the other extending it to all cases in which two propositions, formally different, must be true or false together. The one tradition goes back to Aristotle (see Frond, loccit. d' Lohi, i. 158), the other to Galen (see ibid. i. 608-9). As illustrating the one, see Wallis, Logica, lib. ii. cap. vi.; for the other, see Crumeylorpe, Logica, lib. iii. cap. iv. Cf. Usher, Logica, § 96. Recently the term has fallen into disuse, and its place tends to be taken by 'Obversion.'

Equity (in law) [Lat. aequitas]: Ger. (1) Gleichheit; (2) Gerechtigkeit; Fr. (1) équité; Itl. equità. (1) Justice; that which is ex aequo et bono. (2) The system of remedial justice administered by courts of Equity, or (what is synonymous) courts of Chancery.

The kind of remedy afforded by that system. It is one circumscribed by precedent, and not always identical with natural equity. The rigid forms in which legal remedies are necessitated, and by which legal rights are practically determined, in early societies gradually gave way to methods of procedure based more on reason and leaning more to substance of right. Strict law is thus harmonised or modified into equity. The Roman praetor, at the instance of the Roman lawyer, by the annual praetorius edict, brought about this change at Rome. In England it was initiated by the lord chancellor, as the keeper of the king's 'conscience,' and soon a system of judicial procedure known as chancery, administered by separate courts of Chancery. These courts often interposed to prevent the use of a legal advantage gained in the ordinary law courts, as by enjoining a judgment creditor against enforcing a judgment which he had obtained under such circumstances as to make it inequitable for him to use it. They also gave a remedy, when there was no adequate one, at law. In the United States a similar division of labour, between actions at law and actions in equity, formerly existed in most states, and now exists in the Federal courts. In England, and in many of the United States, the distinction was abolished during the latter half of the 19th century. Cf. CODE.

Literature: Tottet, Equity Jurisprudence, i. chap. 1; Smith, Instit. of Roman Law, § 13; Maine, Ancient Law, chaps. ii., iii.

Equivalence (law of): see Constitution of Energy, for which it is sometimes used.

Equivoval [Lat. æquus, equal; -val, -val]: Ger. mehrdeutig, zweideutig; Fr. équivoque; Itl. equivoco. Terms are 'equivocal' when