CROCHET (from the Fr. crochê, a hook; whence also the
Anglicized "crochet," pronounced as in French, for the knitting-
work done with a hook instead of on pins), properly a small
hook, and so used of the hook-like setae or bristles found in
certain worms which burrow in sand. In music, a "crotchet"
is a note of half the value of a minim and double that of a quaver;
it is marked by a round black head and a line without a tail or
hook; the French croche is used of a "quaver" which has a tail,
but in ancient music the semiminima, the modern crotchet,
is marked by an open note with a hook. Derived either from
an old French proverbial phrase, il a des crochus en teste, or from
a meaning of twist or turn, as in the similar expression "crank,"
comes the sense of a whim, fancy or perverse idea, seen also in
the adjective "crotchety" of a fussy unreasonable person.