

## ODIHAM

**P**UT his head  
and anxious face  
out of a car.  
Seemed to have said :  
Yell's the name  
of this place ;  
seven, three, four.

Man addressed  
tried to evince  
interest,  
as often before  
and often since.  
Said the name  
of where they were  
was Odiham.  
Delighted, sir.

Fat, pale chap  
seemed dissatisfied ;  
snatched a map  
from those inside.  
Engine tried  
as much as it could  
to drown the voices  
with throbbing noises.

Man understood  
him to say :  
We know the way  
to the south of France ;  
but Brodenham  
is not in Hants ;  
we almost came  
this way instead.

**Odiham**

He said : I said  
Odiham.  
Odium : hatred.  
Odi : I hate.  
ham : ham.  
A ridiculous name  
in that point of view.

He said : Are you  
then a Jew?

He said : No.

He said : Oh ;  
I thought I'd like to know ;  
but I can't wait.

**JOHN GRAY.**