The question of the correct plural of the word “mongoose” was solved by a gentleman who wanted a pair of these interesting and affectionate creatures.

He wrote to a dealer: “Sir, please send me two mongeese.” He did not like the looks of this, tore up the paper and began again: “Sir, please send me two mongooses.”

This version did not satisfy him any better than the first so he wrote: “Sir, please send me a mongoose and, by the way, send me another.”

—Punch Bowl.