

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

DEPRAVATIVE.—DISTRUSTFUL.

BY

DR. JAMES A. H. MURRAY.

PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS portion of D (DEPRAVATIVE to DISTRUSTFUL) contains 6190 Main words, 638 Subordinate words, 385 special Combinations explained and illustrated under the Main words; total 7213. The *obvious combinations*, grouped and illustrated under the Main words, but not requiring individual explanation, make 375 more. Of the 6190 Main words, 4420 are current and native or fully naturalized, 1599 (25.8%) are marked † as obsolete, and 171 (2.7%) || as alien or incompletely naturalized. About five-sevenths of the whole are therefore in living English use. The Quotations, by which the history, uses, and constructions of these words are illustrated, number 35,750.

As illustrating the compass of this work in the matter of *words* (without going into that of *senses*, in which its special character is still more marked), the following figures referring to Dr. Johnson's Dictionary and some more recent lexicographical works have been carefully compiled :

| | Johnson. | Cassell's 'Encyclopædic.' | 'Century' Dict. | Funk's 'Standard.' | Here. |
|---|----------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------|
| Total Words recorded, <i>Depravative to Distrustful</i> | 1165 | 4504 | 4256 | 4578 | 7588 |
| „ Words illustrated by quotations | 930 | 2324 | 2130 | 538 | 6707 |
| „ Number of quotations | 2716 | 4191 | 5156 | 743 | 35750 |

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson, in which the first attempt was made to use quotations to illustrate the history of words, is 3899.

The words here included are to a preponderating extent, immediately or ultimately, of Classical origin, the Latin (and French) prefix *de-*, the Greek *dia-*, the Latin *di-*, *dis-*, being answerable for the great majority of them. Although the words of these classes are, perhaps, as a whole, less picturesque, and certainly offer less variety of interest, than those of Old English age, or even than the motley crowd of those that have been introduced by our commercial and political relations with 'every kindred and tongue and people,' they supply a multitude of verbs and nouns of great practical importance as elements of the language; and it is notable how many of them have in English received a development of sense extending far beyond their Latin and even their French uses. Among the DE- words, special interest will be found to attach to the history of *depravity* (in theological use), *detail* (in military use), *determine*, *determination*, in their philosophical and university senses, also of *detritus*, *development*, and the archaic *devaign*, *deray*. Under DIA- there is a long series of scientific and technical terms, of which *diabetes*, *diapason*, *diathermanous* are interesting examples. There are also the obsolete medical terms in *dia-*, so strangely formed from Greek phrases: though now represented in current use only by *diachylon*, they

were formerly so numerous, that the element *dia*, common to them, was itself taken to mean 'medical preparation.' The DI-, DIF-, DIS- words are still more numerous: among them attention may be called to *disaster*, *discount*, *disease*, *disguise*, *dispense*, DISPENSATION (in ecclesiastical sense), *distribute* and DISTRIBUTION (in logic), *disposition*, *distemper*, *district*. DISPATCH is shown to be, historically and etymologically, the proper spelling of a word which, by some unaccountable mistake, was entered in Dr. Johnson's Dictionary as *despatch*, to the disturbance, though, happily, not to the subversion of good English usage.

Interspersed among these *de-*, *dia-*, *dis-* formations are many words of exceptional interest, among the articles on which DEUCE, DEVIL, *desk*, DIE (with its plural *dice*), *diamond*, DIAPER, *diet*, *dictionary*, DICKER, *de-witt*, *dilettante*, *dine*, DIPLOMATIC, *diphtheria*, *dirge*, *dish*, and the verb DIE may here be referred to. The history of the pseudo-archaic expression DERRING-DO, and of the chain of misconceptions and blunders by which this piece of 'Wardour Street English' has been evolved, will interest many; as will the history of DISMAL (here for the first time fully displayed and established).

The materials for the earlier words as far as DH-, were sub-edited for us by one of the most devoted friends of the Dictionary, Miss J. E. A. Brown of Further Barton, near Cirencester; a small section, from DIA to DIALYSIS, by the Rev. Walter E. Smith, then of Harpenden; and the rest of the letter by our indefatigable worker, the late Mr. P. W. Jacob, of Guildford (the portion from *diff-* to *dirr-* having been partly arranged by Mr. J. W. Warre Tyndale, of Evercreech). Before passing into the hands of the Editorial Staff, nearly the whole of the DE- material was revised by the Rev. C. B. Mount, M.A., Oxford, who also shared with Mr. John Dormer (now of Shipley Lodge, Westfield Road, Southampton) in the revision of the succeeding large section from DI- to DZ-. To the latter we are further indebted for compiling the successive *Lists of Special Wants* from DI- to the end of the letter, a preliminary task of immense labour involving a careful examination of about 200,000 quotations. (Considering the labour devoted to the preparation of these Lists, it may here be allowable to express the wish that more use were made of them by readers and friends of the Dictionary. If every reader would make it his ambition to supply one desideratum at least, it would be of material service to the work.)

The friends to whom we have been indebted for important help in the proof-stage, are, first of all, Dr. Fitzedward Hall, who has continued with unwearied devotion those rich contributions to the literary history of the words and senses, of which I have so often had reason to make mention; also Lord Aldenham (better known to all interested in the Dictionary under his former name of Mr. Henry Hucks Gibbs), the Rev. Dr. J. T. Fowler, Durham, the Rev. J. B. Johnston, M.A., B.D., Falkirk, Monsieur F. J. Amours, Glasgow. Others who have more recently helped us in this way will be mentioned in the final Preface to Volume III, which will appear on 1 July next, when also reference will be made to those who have in other ways given us valued assistance with words here treated.

J. A. H. M.

THE SCRIPTORIUM, OXFORD.
November, 1896.

** The Editorial staff engaged on this part (of which only the MS. for the first eight columns had gone to the printer, when a fatal accident deprived us of the experienced aid of Mr. John Mitchell) have been Mr. C. G. Balk, Mr. A. T. Maling, M.A., Mr. F. J. Sweatman, B.A.; and, for certain parts of smaller extent, Mr. A. Erlebach, B.A., Mr. A. R. Sewall, Mr. E. E. Speight, and, more recently, Mr. C. Talbutt Onions, M.A.