

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

DEVELOPMENT—DIFFLUENCY.

BY

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NOTE.

THIS Section contains 1145 Main words, 146 Combinations explained under these, and 138 Subordinate entries, 1429 in all. The *obvious combinations*, recorded and illustrated by quotations, without individual definition, number 143 more. Of the 1145 Main words, 868 are current and native or fully naturalized, 199 (17.4%) are marked (+) as *obsolete*, and 78 (6.8%) as (||) *alien* or not fully naturalized. Comparison with the corresponding part of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary, and of some more recent lexicographical works, shows the following figures :

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic.'	Century Dict.	Funk's 'Standard.'	Here.
Total words recorded, <i>Developmental</i> to <i>Diffluency</i>	170	945	1016	1100	1572
„ „ recorded and defined	168	857	871	832	1233
„ „ illustrated by quotations	131	334	354	95	1360
„ illustrative quotations	378	574	817	124	7416

The number of illustrative quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson's Dictionary (of which quotations were the chief feature) is 448.

This Section finishes the words in DE-, and proceeds with those in DI-, the majority of these being compounded with the various prefixes *di-*, and the prefix *dia-*, to the articles on which particular attention is called. It necessarily includes, especially under *dia-*, a long series of scientific and technical terms, of ancient, mediæval, or modern formation, of which *diabetes*, *diagnosis*, *dialectic*, *diameter*, *diapason*, *diaphanous*, *diaphragm*, *diarrhœa*, *diathermanous*, will be found to present many points of interest. There are also the obsolete medical terms in *dia-*, so strangely formed from Greek phrases; of these *diachylon* or *diachylum* remains as the sole representative in general use, but so numerous were they in mediæval times, that the element *dia* common to them was itself taken to mean 'a medical preparation.' Among the articles of special historical interest are DEVIL (occupying with its various senses, phrases, and derivatives, 17½ columns); also the verb DIE; the sb. DIE with its plural *dice*, and the derivatives of both; besides *dial*, *diamond* (cf. *adamant*), *diaper*, *diet* (two words), *dictionary*, *dicker* (a word of the skin-trade from the days of Tacitus to those of modern traders with the red-skins), *dew*, *dey* (two words); *de-will* (an earlier parallel to *burke*, *lynch*, and *boycott*). There are also the oriental words in DI-, including some such as *dhow* and *dhurrie*, which have no claim to be so spelt, except that it makes them look more barbaric and outlandish. Many points of interest attach also to the sense-history of the words *device* and *devise*, to the numerous senses of *dib*, *dick*, *dicky*, to *devotion* and its related words, *devotee*, etc., and to the old word *dever*, which under modern French influence is now refashioned as *devoir*.