

PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS portion of D (D to DEPRAVATION, beginning Volume III) contains 3801 Main words, 555 Subordinate words, 334 special Combinations explained and illustrated under the Main words; total 4690. The *obvious combinations*, grouped and illustrated under the Main words, but not requiring individual explanation, make 580 more. Of the 3801 Main words, 2864 are current and fully naturalized, 833 (21.9 %) are marked † as obsolete, and 104 (2.7 %) || as alien or incompletely naturalized. Nearly four-fifths of all these words are therefore in living English use. The Main words, and likewise the special combinations, are illustrated by quotations, the number of which here presented amounts to nearly 24,000.

The first 76 pages, D to DEAVE, illustrate the composite nature of the English vocabulary, containing as they do a large proportion of native English words, interspersed with many from French, Latin, and numerous foreign languages; among the important words of Teutonic origin are *dare, daughter, dawn, day, dead, death, deal, dear*; among those from French or Romanic are *dame, damsel, danger, dainty, daub, deacon, dean*. The words *daffodil, damask, dapple-grey*, have an interesting history.

The rest of the section is mainly occupied with words formed with the Latin and French prefix DE-; to which prefix a comprehensive article is also devoted, treating of it as a living element, freely used to form such nonce-words as *de-anglicize, deprovincialize, depettycoated*, and the like. Among the important words containing the prefix are *debauch, decline, defeat, defence, degree, delay, delegate, delight, deliver, demand, depart, depend*. Among other articles of special interest are *deed, deem, deep, deer, deft, deign, decorum* (at first a term of art criticism), *dell, delve, dempster or deemster, den, dene*. The prefix *demi-* also deserves notice, with its many compounds, among which popular etymology has erroneously placed *demijohn* (French, *Dame Jeanne*).

Among words of historical interest are *Dane-geld, Dane-law, dauphin, decener, decoy, deemster, defenestration, deist, deity, delf, demarcation, demesne, demise, dengue, denizen*. Attention is called to the recent introduction of the name *Black Death* as applied to the great pestilence of the 14th century, to the instructive history of *debtenture*, to the fact that the *deck* of a ship is older in English than in Dutch, to the history of the title *dean*, and to the curious archaeological term *dene-hole* or *Dane-hole*.

The materials for the greater part of this section, viz. *D to Dely*, were sub-edited by Mr. F. T. Elworthy of Foxdown, Wellington, Somerset, with the assistance of members of his family; the remainder (extending on to *Dh-*) by Miss J. E. A. Brown of Further Barton, near Cirencester. Much of this has been revised, before being taken in hand by the Editorial staff, by the Rev. C.-B. Mount, M.A., Oxford, who has given special attention to the investigation of the literary history of some of the more difficult words. Of the services of these voluntary workers grateful acknowledgement is made; as also of the unwearied and invaluable help of Dr. Fitzedward Hall, which has contributed to the enrichment of every column and to the completion of the literary history of nearly every word. The proofs have also been read, and valuable annotations made, by Mr. H. Hucks Gibbs, M.A., St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, the Rev. Dr. Fowler, Bishop Hatfield's Hall, Durham, The Rev. J. B. Johnston, M.A., B.D., Falkirk, Monsieur F. J. Amours, Glasgow, and Mr. F. E. Bumby, of the Congregational Institute, Nottingham. Systematic contributions to the history of medical terms have been made by Dr. W. Sykes, Gosport, and to that of botanical words by Professor S. Vines, and the Director of the Royal Gardens, Kew. M. Paul Meyer, D.C.L., Oxford, and Member of the Institute of France, has assisted in the etymology of the words from Old French, Prof. Edward Sievers of Leipzig in questions of Germanic Philology, and Mr. J. T. Platts, M.A., Oxford, in the etymology of Oriental words. The scholars and men of science who have contributed to the treatment of individual words and senses are too numerous to mention; they comprise most of the names recorded on pp. xi and xii of Volume I; and their continued generous help is gratefully acknowledged.

J. A. H. M.

THE SCRIPTORIUM, OXFORD,
June, 1895.

. The Editorial staff engaged upon this portion included the late Mr. John Mitchell, Mr. Walter Worrall, B.A., Mr. Arthur T. Maling, M.A., Mr. C. G. Balk, Mr. F. J. Sweatman, B.A., and Mr. A. Erlebach, B.A. Mr. Mitchell's long and valued work in the Scriptorium was, to our unspeakable grief, suddenly terminated by a fatal accident at Lliwydd, near Snowdon, on the 30th August, 1894.