

# A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY

## ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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### SUPPLE—SWEEP.

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#### PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS section contains 1235 Main words, 231 Special Combinations explained under these, 280 Obvious Combinations, and 327 Subordinate entries; in all 2073 words. Of the Main words 345 are marked † as obsolete, and 30 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following results:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic', and Suppl.	'Century' Dict., and Suppl.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Supple-Sweep</i>	217	812	1073	2073
Words illustrated by quotations	178	386	411	1755
Number of illustrative quotations	649	602	1105	12597

The number of quotations in the corresponding part of Richardson's Dictionary is 697.

Etymologically the section falls roughly into two parts on p. 268, where *svelte* and *swab* mark respectively the end of the Latin and the beginning of the Teutonic element. The exceptions to this etymological division are: in the first part, the obscure *surf*, *surly*, the native *sutel*, the place-names *Surrey* and *Sussex*, the Scandinavian *surturbrand*, the Russian *suslik*, the Dutch *suttler*, and the Oriental *suricate*, *urnai*, *surpeach*, *surwan*, *susu*, *sutra*, *suttee*, *sutto*; in the second part, the French *swage* sb.<sup>1</sup>, sb.<sup>2</sup>, and vb.<sup>1</sup> (and *swedge*), the Indian *swadeshi*, *swami*, *swastika*, the African *Swahili*, and the Malay *swallo*.

The Latin portion contains many important series of words, of which the following with their connexions are the most remarkable: *supply*, *support*, *suppose*, *suppress*, *supreme*, *sure*, *surface*, *surfeit*, *surgeon*, *surmise*, *surname*, *surprise*, *surrender*, *surround*, *survey*, *survive*, *suspect*, *suspend*, *sustain*. In many of these the delimitation of senses and their arrangement have been difficult. The number of technical expressions in these articles is large, as a glance at almost any page will show. Among these, the history of the mathematical term *surd* deserves special mention; the suggestion that its use is due originally to Arabic translations of Euclid is here made, it is believed, for the first time, as also the suggestions as to the origin of *surdesolid* and its successor *sursolid*.

Homographs of Latin or Romanic origin are unusual; it is therefore noteworthy that in the present section we have three verbs *supply*, with three adjectives *suppliant*, two nouns *suppliance*, and two adjectives *suppliable*, two nouns *surreption* with corresponding adjectives, and two verbs and nouns *swage*.

If it cannot be claimed that any fresh etymological discoveries appear here, yet the following articles may be named in which the evidence supplied is fuller or more accurate than that available hitherto in the dictionaries: *surgeon*, *surly* (undoubtedly, as Professor Weekley has demonstrated, a spelling of *sirly* 'lordly, imperious'), *surprise* vb. (with the earlier *supprise*, *susprise*), *swag* vb., *swale* sb.<sup>1</sup>, *swamp* (the earliest historical application of which is to rich moist soil in North American colonies), *sward*, *swarm*, *sway*, *swear* vb., *sweat* sb., *sweep* vb.

Other articles or individual points of interest are: the variations in the spelling of *surplice*, the prefixes *supra-* and *sur-*, the early synonyms of *suspension-bridge*, *suversed sine*, *suzerain* and *suzerainty*, *swain*, *swanimote*, the slang neologism *swank* (not, as many suppose, an Americanism), the development of the senses of *swap*, the unexplained interchange of *swarth* and *swath*, the rise of *swarth*, *swarthy* (with the phonetic variants *swarf*, *swarfy*) for *swart*, *swarty*, the Scottish *swash* 'drum' *swash* in printing, the history of the proper names *Swede* and *Sweden*, the origin of *sweep* for chimney-sweep.