

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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SWEEP—SZMIKITE.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS section of S contains 1431 Main words, 265 Special Combinations explained under these, 285 Obvious Combinations, and 400 Subordinate entries; in all 2381 words. Of the Main words 236 are marked † as obsolete, and 82 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>Sweep—Szmitite</i>	173	1029	1485	2381
Words illustrated by quotations	153	318	429	1845
Number of illustrative quotations	422	442	890	9919

The number of quotations in the corresponding part of Richardson's Dictionary is 419.

This section, like that immediately preceding it, is roughly divisible into two parts of a markedly different etymological character. On p. 354 the Teutonic words with initial *sw* come to an end and the Greek words with initial *sy* begin.

The first etymological group consists mainly of the important words *sweet*, *swell*, *swerve*, *swift*, *swill*, *swim*, *swine*, *swing*, *swinge*, *switch*, *swivel*, *swoon*, *sword*, with their immediate derivatives; of these *sweet*, *swim*, and *swine* can be traced back to the Indo-european stock. Mingled with these are many lesser words, now obsolete or restricted to local currency; many of them are of interest philologically, and some, as *sweer*, *sweven*, *swote*, have connexions outside the Teutonic area. The wide ramification of a root and its variants is well illustrated by series like *sweep*, *swepe*, *swip*, *swipe*, *swipper*, *swipple*, *swope*, *swoop*, and *swench*, *swenche*, *swinch*, *swink*, *sweng*, *swenge*, *swing*, *swinge*, *swingle*, *swong*.

The second etymological group is made up almost entirely of words compounded with Greek *σύν* 'with' in its several prefix-forms *syl-*, *SYM-*, *SYN-*, *sys-*; the leading words are *syllable*, *syllogism*, *symbol*, *symmetry*, *sympathy*, *symphony*, *symposium*, *symptom*, *synagogue*, *synchronous*, *syncope*, *syndic*, *synod*, *synonym*, *synopsis*, *syntax*, *synthesis*, *system*, *syzygy*. Notable non-Greek elements in this region of the vocabulary are the native *sy*, the French *syth*, *sythment*, and the Scottish *syre*, *syver*.

The following articles are notable as dealing with recondite or doubtful points of etymology: *swerve*, *swift* adj.¹, *swindle*, *swingle*, *swirl*, *switch*, *sycophant*, *syne*, *syphilis*, *syrup*. The evidence available for *sweepstake*, *sweetbread*, *swig* (three nouns and three verbs), *swipe* vb., *swipes*, and *swot*, is inadequate for the determination of their origin, and more light is desiderated on the early history of *swoon* and its immediate connexions. The remarkable facts of the origin of *syllabus* are recorded here in summary form; a more extended account than it was possible to give in the columns of this Dictionary was contributed to the Times Literary Supplement, February 20, 1919.

The Far East is represented by *syagush* and *syce* (India), and *sycee* (China).

The following is a selection of miscellaneous words and phrases of interest not included in the above lists: *sweet singer* (full references are given to the literature relating to this curiosity of sectarian nomenclature), *swelled head* (earlier *swell-headed*), *swine's feather*, *Swing* sb.³, *swinger*¹, *Swisser* and *Switzer*, *swoop* (in its early history), *Sword-blade Company*, *sworn man*, the Paracelsian *syph* and *synovia*, *synagogue of Satan*, *syncellus*, *syndicalism*, *synteresis*, *syntonic* (in wireless telegraphy) *syringe* (formerly *syring*).