

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME IX. FIRST HALF. SI.—ST.)

SIMPLE—SLEEP

BY

W. A. CRAIGIE, M.A., LL.D.

PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS double section contains 1611 Main words, 220 Combinations explained under these, and 577 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms, in all 2408. The obvious Combinations, recorded and illustrated by quotations, but not requiring to be explained, number 869 more, and bring up the total to 3277. Of the Main words, 269 are marked † as obsolete, and 46 are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

The following figures exhibit the result of comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'	Here.
Words recorded	259	1109	1250	1265	3277
Words illustrated by quotations	212	417	568	133	2709
Number of quotations	791	656	1600	178	17316

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 750.

This portion of the Dictionary contains the second half of the words beginning with SI-, the whole of those with initial SK-, and about a third part of those beginning with SL-; in addition to these, SJ- is represented by the word *sjambok*. Each of the three main divisions has special characteristics, and the two later in particular present some interesting etymological features. The space occupied by the SI- words is almost equally divided between those of native and those of foreign origin. The former include many common words, such as *sin*, *since* (with the older *sih*, *sihen*, *sihence*), *sinew*, *sing*, *sink*, *sister*, *sit* (rich both in forms and senses), *six*; of the others the Latin element is the largest and most important, although there are also considerable contributions from French, Greek, and some more remote sources.

A complete contrast to this is presented by the pages containing the SK- words, in which both the Old English and the Latin element are conspicuously absent, since OE. *sc-* gave later SH-, while Latin *Sc-* remained unchanged. The actual sources are very varied; among the leading words may be noted the Scandinavian *skald*, *skate* (fish), *ski* (a very recent adoption), *skill*, *skin*, *skirt*, *skoal*, *skulk*, *sky*, the Dutch or Low German *skate* (for ice), *skellum*, *sketch*, *skink*, *skipper*, *skive*, the Old French *skein*, *skellat*, *skiff*, *skim*, *skirmish*, the Gaelic *skene*, the Greek *skeleton*, *skiagram*, *skink* (lizard), and the American *skunk*. The neighbouring languages afford no clear explanation of a certain number, as *skewer*, *skid*, *skillet*, *skittle*, *skull*.

In the SL- portion native words reappear, such as *slack* (with its derived verbs *slacken*, *slake*, *slcak*, and *sleek*), *slade*, *slay* (with a remarkable variety of forms), *sleave*, *sledge* (hammer), *sleek*, *sleep*. They are, however, outnumbered by the foreign Teutonic element, e.g. the Scand. *slack* (dell), *slam*, *slaughter*, *slaver*, and the LG., Du., or Flem. *slabber*, *slag*, *slap*, *sled*, *sledge*. In a few common words the *sl-* represents earlier *scl-* from OF. *escl-*, as in *slander*, *slash*, *slat*, *slate*, *slave*. Of obscure origin are *slab* sb.¹, *slang* sb.², *slattern*, *sleazy*.

Among words of miscellaneous interest, in addition to many of those specified above, may be mentioned *sincanter*, *sindon*, *sinople*, *si quis*, *sir*, *sirdar*, *sirloin*, *siserary*, *skedaddle*, *Skimmington*, *skirret*, and *slate* v.²