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:

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<td>269</td>
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<td>Words illustrated by quotations</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>417</td>
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| Number of quotations | 791 | 616 | 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 St-; 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 sín, sithen, spedence), sink, 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 Sk-, 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, skoot, skulk, sky, the Dutch or Low German skate (for ice), skilum, sketch, skink, skipper, skive, the Old French skien, skellet, skiff, skim, skirmish, the Gaelic skene, the Greek skeleton, skigram, skink (lizard), and the American skunk. The neighbouring languages afford no clear explanation of a certain number, as skewer, skid, skilet, skiddle, skull.

In the Si- portion native words reappear, such as slack (with its derived verbs slacken, slake, sleek, and sled). slade, sly (with a remarkable variety of forms), slaw, 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. stabber, slug, slap, sled, sledge. In a few common words the sl- represents earlier sr- from OF. escl-, as in slander, splash, slat, state, slave. Of obscure origin are stab sb.1, slant 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, siradar, siriloin, sirinary, sledge, skimington, skirret, and slate v.