

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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SNIGGLE—SORROW.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS double section contains 1688 Main words, 237 Special Combinations explained under these, 808 Obvious Combinations, and 351 Subordinate entries; in all 3084 words. Of the Main words, 364 are marked † as obsolete, and 70 are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following figures :-

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded	251	1065	1349	1329	3084
Words illustrated by quotations	209	427	534	173	2736
Number of quotations	813	661	1380	228	17,706

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 707.

This portion of the Dictionary comprises the second half of the words beginning with SN-, and about three-fourths of those beginning with SO-. Up to the end of SN- the vocabulary is either of English origin or derived from the languages most closely related to it. Of the older native words the most important is *snow* sb.¹ with its many combinations, occupying altogether 17 columns. Such words as *snip*, *snivel*, *snore*, *snort*, *snot*, *snuff*, *snuffe* make their appearance at various dates and some of them have probably been adopted from the Continent. To these may be added *snow* sb.² from Dutch, and *snipe*, *snub*, from Scandinavian. *Snob* sb.¹ and *snooze* appear first as slang terms of the 18th century, and the history of the former is of some interest.

In SO- the native words still hold a prominent place, but are rivalled in number and extent by those of Romanic origin. Among those which go back to Old English are *so*, *soak*, *soap*, *soft*, *some*, *son*, *song*, *soon*, *sooth*, *soothe*, *sore*, *sorrow*, and some of these have many derivatives and compounds attached to them. The group *soc*, *socage*, *soke*, *sokeman*, *soken*, has considerable historical interest; the disappearance and revival of *sooth*, and the sense-development of *soothe*, are also noteworthy. *Sob*, which first appears in early Middle English, has no obvious cognates; a peculiar use of the noun by Shakspeare proves to have been a technical term of horsemanship.

From Gaelic come the Sc. *sonse*, whence the more widely-used adj. *sonsy*, and the verb *sorn*; the fuller form *sorren* occurs as a sb. in older Sc. and in Irish use.

The French element is so extensive that only some of the more important words can be mentioned. Among those which are most distinctively French in form or origin are *soar*, *sobriquet*, *sock* (of a plough), *socket*, *soil*, *sojourn*, *sombre*, *somersault*, *sorcerer*, *sorcery*, and *sorrel*. The variations of older French and English spelling are well illustrated in the numerous forms of *soldan*, *solder*, and *soldier*; the last of these has been spelled in at least 70 different ways. In a large number of words, whether adopted through French or directly, the Latin origin is obvious, as *sober*, *social*, *society*, *solace*, *solar*, *sole*, *solemn*, *solicit*, *solid*, *soliloquy*, *solitary*, etc. Among recent formations from Latin stems the most interesting are *socialism*, *socialist*, and *solidarity*.

Italian is represented by the musical terms *solfeggio*, *solo*, *soprano*, as well as by *solfatara* and *sorgho*, more commonly Latinized as *sorghum*; the forms *socle*, *soffit*, and *sonnet* have passed through French.

In addition to various scientific terms (chiefly from *sōlōn* and *sōma*), Greek has contributed *solecism*, *solecize*, etc., and *sophism*, *sophist*, etc., whence *sophisticate* and *sophistication*.

Among the few Oriental words the most important are *sofa* and *Sophy*.