A NEW
ENGLISH DICTIONARY
ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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SPRING—SQUOYLE.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

In this section of the Dictionary there are 765 Main words, 177 Special Combinations explained under these, 418 Obvious Combinations, and 122 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 1482 words. Of the Main words 168 are marked + as obsolete, and 10 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

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<td>Words illustrated by quotations</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>164</td>
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In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 318.

This section comprises, in almost equal portions, the remainder of the words beginning with Sp-, and the whole of those with initial Sq-. The former are predominantly of English origin, and include such words as spring sb. and v. (which together with derivatives and compounds occupy nearly 30 columns), spire, spout, span, spurn, and spurt. Various others of obscure history may also be of native stock, as sprocket, spro, spry, spud, spunk. Dutch has contributed springbok, sprue, spruit, and spurrey, possibly also sprinkles and sputter. The geographical name Spruce (Prussia) is the source of spruce (-fir), perhaps also of the adj. spruce. Compared with these the Romanic element is small, being chiefly represented by sprite, spruce (with derivatives), spurge, spurious, and spy.

Of the words beginning with Sq- a large proportion are not found outside of English, this combination of sounds being rare in other languages, though occurring to some extent in Latin and represented by skw- or squ- in the Scandinavian tongues. Those which have an obvious etymology are mainly of Latin origin, and represent either Latin words in squ- or Romanic forms in squ-, esqui- (the latter from earlier ex-+eu-). Among those directly based on Latin the chief are squallid, squallor, squama or squame (with squamate, -ose, -ous), squarroser, and squill. French of various dates has contributed squadrion, square, squashed v., squall, squall, squelch, squirm, squish, and a vague feeling of appropriateness may account for such forms as squall, squabbly, squall, squander, squase, squib, squid, spruit, and squise. In some cases s- has been prefixed to words in qu-, as in squatty, squench.

In addition to these sources, American Indian tongues have supplied a few words, as squash sb.², square, and squetague.