

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:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopedic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded	120	412	584	529	1482
Words illustrated by quotations	97	164	201	50	1368
Number of quotations	392	293	517	70	8396

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 *Squ-*. 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), *sprit*, *sprout*, *spur*, *spurn*, and *spurt*. Various others of obscure history may also be of native stock, as *sprocket*, *sprod*, *spry*, *spud*, *spunk*. Dutch has contributed *springbok*, *sprue*, *spruit*, and *spurrey*, possibly also *sprinkle* and *spuiter*. 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*, *spume* (with derivatives), *spurge*, *spurious*, and *spy*.

Of the words beginning with *Squ-* 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 *skv-* or *sqv-* in the Scandinavian tongues. Those which have an obvious etymology are mainly of Latin origin, and represent either Latin words in *sku-* or Romanic forms in *escu-*, *esqu-* (the latter from earlier *ex + qu-*). Among those directly based on Latin the chief are *squalid*, *squalor*, *squama* or *squame* (with *squamate*, *-ose*, *-ous*), *squarrose*, and *squill*. French of various dates has contributed *squad*, *squadron*, *square*, *squash* v.¹, *squat*, *squeamish*, *squire*, and *squirrel*.

A number of *Squ-* words are obviously imitative of sound or action, as *squall*, *squark*, *squatter* v., *squawk*, *squeak*, *squeal*, *squelch*, *squirm*, *squish*, and a vague feeling of appropriateness may account for such forms as *squab*, *squabble*, *squail*, *squander*, *squeeze*, *squib*, *squid*, *squirt*, and *squize*. In some cases *s-* has been prefixed to words in *qu-*, as in *squeasy*, *squench*.

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