

PREFACE TO VOLUME IX.

THIS volume, which, on account of its great size, is issued in two parts, contains, in Part I, the words beginning with SI-SQ edited by Professor W. A. Craigie, ST by Dr. Henry Bradley, in Part II, SU-Sz by Mr. C. T. Onions, and T-TH by the late Sir James Murray.

The statistics for the whole volume are:—

	Main words.	Subordinate words.	Special Combinations.	Obvious Combinations.	Total No. of Words.	No. of Quotations.
SI-ST (1212 pages)	13,563	3532	3502	6781	27,378	156,397
SU-Sz (396 „)	4935	2417	960	1094	9406	47,112
T-TH (404 „)	6050	1531	1577	1706	10,864	45,900
SI-TH (2012 „)	24,548	7480	6039	9581	47,648	249,479

The 24,548 Main words are distinguished approximately as follows:

	Current.	Obsolete.	Alien.	Total.
SI-ST	10,485	2683	395	13,563
SU-Sz	3594	1133	208	4935
T-TH	4682	965	403	6050
	18,761	4781	1006	24,548

The comparative scale of this work and of certain other Dictionaries is shown as follows:

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Here.
Words recorded	3740	17,616	23,119	47,648
Words illustrated by quotations	3029	6176	7177	41,022
Number of illustrative quotations	12,169	9996	19,826	249,409

In the corresponding portion of Richardson's Dictionary the number of quotations is 10,964.

The aggregate numbers for the first nine volumes of the Dictionary (A-TH) are:

Main words.	Subordinate words.	Special Combinations.	Obvious Combinations.	Total No. of words.	Illustrative quotations.
206,565	56,114	41,186	49,905	353,770	1,547,545

Of the 206,565 Main words 181,067 are current, 20,513 obsolete, 4985 alien.

For observations on the etymological and other characteristics of the words included in this volume, and for detailed statistics of the numbers of words of various classes, and of the numbers of quotations, the reader is referred to the separate prefaces to the various sections. A summary statement of the characteristics of the portions SI-ST, SU-Sz will be found in the prefaces to them; observations relating to T-TH are included in the preface to the letter T in Part II.

The statistics for the whole of the letter S are collected at the end of the preface to SU-Sz.

PREFACE TO SI-ST.

THIS half-volume, containing the words from SI to the end of ST, includes 13,563 Main words, 3502 Combinations explained under these, and 3532 Subordinate entries; in all 20,597. The Obvious combinations, illustrated by quotations but not requiring specific definition, number 6781 more, making a total of 27,378. Of the Main words, 2683 are marked † as obsolete, and 395 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.*

In the portion comprising SI to SQ the distribution of the usual constituents of the vocabulary is considerably affected by the sound immediately following the initial *s*. The native element, however, is either predominant or prominent throughout, except in SK and a portion of SL. The contributions made by the other Germanic languages are as usual slight in comparison; Scandinavian is best represented in SK (e.g. *skill, skin, sky*) and SL (e.g. *slaughter, slight, sly*), Dutch or Low German in SK, SL, and especially in SP. The Romanic element, from all sources, is important throughout, except in SM and in parts of SL and SP;

* The following figures show the comparative scale of this work and some other Dictionaries:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Here.
Words recorded	2114	9765	12,743	27,378
Words illustrated by quotations	1648	3497	3835	23,959
Number of illustrative quotations	7351	5884	11,433	156,397

In the corresponding portion of Richardson's Dictionary the number of quotations is 6138.

words directly from Latin are naturally absent from SK. The number of words from Old French is considerably increased by the reduction of prefixes, and by the frequency with which *s-* appears in place of the usual OF. *es-*. The Greek element is important only in SO and SP, but is slightly represented in the other portions, even in SQ through med.L. forms. Words from Oriental and remote languages are under the average, and in some portions are almost entirely absent. Some feeling of appropriateness in the use of *sk-*, *sl-*, *sm-*, etc., to express certain ideas is evidently responsible for the large proportion of words beginning with these sounds which have no obvious etymology. This is especially apparent in recent (or comparatively late) formations, such as *skedaddle*, *slang*, *slog*, *slum*, *smash*, *snob*, *snooze*, etc. Equal obscurity of origin, however, attaches to many older words which have long been established in the language, as *skewer*, *skull*, *slender*, *smell*, *smoulder*, *smug*, *snatch*, *sneak*, *sneer*, *snug*, etc.

Although SI-SQ includes a large number of words in very common use, there are very few articles of unusual length, and the great majority are comparatively short. The longest (of 15 columns) is that on SO; next to this come those on SIT, SPEAK, SPRING *sb.*, SIDE, and SPIRIT. A few extend to 8 or 9 columns, as SILVER, SMALL, SOFT, SOUL, SPRING *v.*, but the average length of the longer articles is not above 5 or 6 columns. Extensive illustration of forms has been found necessary only in a few verbs, as *sit*, *slay*, *smite*, but the possibilities of English orthography are strikingly brought out by the numerous spellings of *soldier* and *sovereign*.

In the ST portion, all the principal linguistic sources of the English vocabulary—Old English, French, Latin, and Greek—are abundantly represented. The great majority of the words can be referred to a small number of Indogermanic roots, and it is observable that sometimes derivatives of one and the same root have come into the language through all the different channels. Thus the root **st(h)ā-* has its representatives, among native English words, in *stand*, *staddle*, ? *staff*, *stead*, *stool*, *stow*, and others; among words introduced from Latin and French, in *stable*, *state*, *station*, *statue*, etc.; among words from Greek, in *stater*¹, *static*, *statical*, etc. Words from the modern Teutonic and Romanic languages are numerous. On the other hand, the adoptions from the native languages of Asia, Africa, and America, which abound in many parts of the Dictionary, are here almost entirely absent.

Many of the words with initial *st* are remarkable for the great variety of their senses, requiring for their treatment articles of exceptional length. Among these may be mentioned *stand* (which with its derivatives here occupies 19 pages), *strike* (and the related *stroke*), *stick* vb. and sbs., *stone*; also, of Romanic and Latin origin, *stage*, *standard*, *state*, *station*, *strive*, *study*, *style*.

The material collected for SI to ST down to 1881-2 was subedited at that time as follows:—SI to SOMYR by Mr. P. W. Jacob, SON to SPECIES by Mr. Walter Browne, SPECIFIABLE to SPYTE by Mr. Charles Gray, SQ- and ST- by Mr. P. W. Jacob. SI- to SK- was re-subedited, and new material incorporated, in 1906-8 by Mr. J. Bartlett, B.A., SLA- to SOLF- in 1904-7 by Mr. John Dormer, SOLI- to SONN- in 1908 by Mr. J. Bartlett, and SPA- to SPIS- in 1905-6 by Mr. C. B. Winchester.

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The editorial assistants who have taken part in the preparation of this half-volume are the following:—In SI to SQ, Mr. L. F. Powell, Mr. F. R. Ray, Mr. G. Watson, and Mrs. L. F. Powell; in ST, Mr. Walter Worrall, B.A., Mr. W. J. Lewis, Mr. H. J. Bayliss, Miss E. S. Bradley, and (in certain portions) Mr. A. T. Maling, M.A.

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Staddle *sb.* Earlier example of sense 2: 1543 *Act 35 Hen. VIII*, c. 17 § 1 (1544) The same stathilles or storers [*elsewhere in the section standilles or storers*]. Earlier example of sense 3 a: c 1475 *Pict. Voc.* in Wr.-Wülcker 785/21 *Hic arcomus* [read *arconius*], a stathele.

Stanstickle. Earlier instance:—a 1300 NECKAM *De Utensilibus* in Wright *Voc.* 98 *Gamarus pinosche*, stanstikel.