

**N—Niche.** This contains 1530 Main words, 250 Combinations explained under these, and 1126 Subordinate entries of obsolete forms, etc., or 2906 in all. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated by quotations number 563, bringing up the total to 3469. Of the Main words 374 are marked † as obsolete, and 55 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, <i>N</i> to <i>Niche</i>	284	1651	1643	1719	3469
Words illustrated by quotations	218	542	515	191	2896
Number of quotations	833	864	1508	281	17273

The quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson number 674.

This portion of *N* is fairly representative of the different elements of which the English language is composed. The native words, as well as those of Latin and Greek origin, are numerous and important, and other tongues have added considerably to the stock. Among those which have come down from Old English, some of the most prominent are *nail*, *naked*, *name*, *nap* (sleep), *narrow*, *nave* (of a wheel), *navel*, *neap* (tide), *near* (=nearer), *neat* (cattle), *neb*, *neck*, *need*, *needle*, *neigh*, *neighbour*, *nesh* (soft), *nest*, *nestle*, *net*, *nether*, *nettle*, *new*, *next*, and the set of negative words *na*, *natheless*, *naught* (whence *naughty*), *ne*, *never*. These with their derivatives occupy a considerable part of this section. Of Scandinavian origin are *naam*, *nab* (peak), *nais* (a remarkable instance of the survival in dialect of a very rare word), *nait* (use, useful, to use), *nait* (to deny), *narwhal*, *nay*, *near*, *neven* (to name), and possibly one or two more, as *nag* (to annoy). From Dutch or Low German comes *nap* (of cloth); the Scottish *need-nail* is also of L.G. origin. There still remains some doubt as to the precise source from which some words have come, as *nag* (horse), *nap* (to seize), *nape* (of the neck), *nasty*, *natty*, *neeze* (to sneeze), *nese* (the nose), *nib*, and *nibble*.

Many of the words of Latin origin have become firmly established in the language, and have produced a number of derivatives which are also in common use. Such are *narrate* (at one time a Scotticism), *nasal*, *natal*, *natatory*, *nation*, *native*, *natural*, *nature*, *naval*, *navigate*, *nebula*, *necessary*, *negation*, *negative*, *neglect*, *negligence*, *negotiate*, *nerve*, *nervous*, *neuter*. The earlier among these were as a rule adopted through French, which has also supplied *naïf* and *naïve*, *naissant*, *napey*, *navew*, *navy*, *neat* adj., *nephew*, *nice* (remarkable for the variety of senses it has received in English), and *niche*.

The Greek element is pretty large, and includes *Naiad*, *Nemesis*, *Nereid*; *narcissus*, *nard(us)*, *neclar*, *nepenthe(s)*; *naphtha*, *narcotic*, *nausea*, *necropolis*, *neophyte* (first prominent as one of the 'ridiculous inkhorn terms' in the Rhemish N.T.), *nephritic*. Many modern scientific terms have also been formed on Greek bases, such as *necro-*, *nemato-*, *neo-*, and *neuro-*. In *necromancy*, etc., the original Greek form has replaced the mediæval corruption *nigro-*, *negro-*.

Oriental languages are very fully represented by *nabob*, *nadir*, *nagari*, *naib*, *naik*, *nainsook*, *naker*, *narghile*, *nautch*, *Nazarite*<sup>2</sup>, *negus* (of Abyssinia), *nenuphar*, etc. Various other tongues have contributed a few words, as *namaycush*, *nancy*, *nandu*, *nanguer* (whence Buffon's invention *nagor*), *nardoo*, *nerka*, *niata*, and names of persons or places are the source of *namby-pamby*, *nankeen*, *nantz*, *nap* sb.<sup>3</sup>, *napoleon*, and *negus*<sup>2</sup>.

**Niche—Nywe.** This contains 1954 Main words, 190 Combinations explained under these, and 1172 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms, etc., making 3316 in all. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated by quotations number 1007, and bring up the total number of entries to 4323. Of the Main words 705 are marked † as obsolete, and 92 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, <i>Niche</i> to <i>Nywe</i>	379	1768	1979	1838	4323
Words illustrated by quotations	298	564	746	182	3787
Number of quotations	912	848	1854	230	19586

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 757.

The second half of *N* does not differ essentially from the first in the character of the words it includes. Both the native English and the Latin element are strongly represented, and between them far exceed the contributions from all other sources. Among those words which have either come down from Old English, or have been naturally developed at a later date, may be mentioned *nigh*, *night* (with its many combs., as *nightingale*, *nightmare*, *nightshade*), *nim*, *nimble*, *nine*, *nit*, *noll*, *north*, *nose*, *nostril*, *now*, *numb*, *nuncheon*, *nui*, *nuzzle* (vb.<sup>1</sup>). In such words as *nill* (vb.), *no*, *none*, *nor*, *not*, *nothing*, *nought*, the *n-* represents the prefixed negative *ne*, and further illustration of this is afforded by the obsolete *nis*, *nys* (is not), *nist* (knew not), *not* or *note* (know not). In *nickname* and *nonce* the *n-* properly belongs to the article. The chief adoptions from Scandinavian are *nieve* (fist), *niggle*, *nilthing* (the corrupt form of which, *niddering*, is here traced to its source), *Norn* (two words), *nowt* (also written *nolt*) and the obsolete *nite* (to deny), *nowcin* (need). German and Dutch have supplied only a few words, as *nickel*, *nix*, *nixie*, *nock* (yard-arm), *nordkaper*, *Norse*. The *nock* of a bow or arrow may also be from Dutch or Low German; the proper meaning of this in contrast to *notch* is here clearly shown.

Among words which appear to belong to the native stock, but of which the precise origin is obscure, are *nick* (sb.<sup>1</sup> and vb.<sup>1</sup>), *nincompoop*, *ninny*, *nip*, *nipple*, *nob*, *nobble*, *nod*, *noddle*, *noddy*, *nog*, *noggin*, *noodle*, *nook*, *nugget*, *nuzzle* (vb.<sup>2</sup>).

Of Latin words a few have been adopted without any change of form, as *nidus*, *nimbus*, *nostrum*, *notandum*, *November*, *nucleus*, *nux vomica*. Many others have been assimilated to the usual types, as *node*, *nodule*, *nominal*, *nominate*, *normal*, *notable*, *notary*, *notion*, *notorious*, *noxious*, *numeral*, etc. The admission of *noon* and *nun* took place in Old English. As usual, many of the Latin words came through older French, which has also contributed *niece*, *noise*, *Norman*, *noun*, *nourice* (nurse), *nourish*, *Novel*, *noy*, *nuisance*, *number*, *numbles*, *nurture*, *nyas*. It is also probable that *niggard* and its obsolete synonym *nigon* are Anglo-French forms. A very important addition to the language was moreover made by the gradual introduction of *L. non* (at first in the Anglo-French form *noun-*) as a prefix; the great extent to which this has finally been employed is shown here under the article *NON-* and in the main words following it. From modern French come *nougat*, *noyau*, *nuance*, while Italian has supplied *nicolo*, *niello*, and *nuncio*.

The Greek element is mainly scientific, as in the combs. with *nitro-*, *nomo-*, *noso-*, *noto-*, *nyct-*, *nympho-*, but also includes the common words *nomad* and *nymph*.

Oriental and other non-European languages are represented by *nigua*, *nipa*, *nocake*, *norimon*, *nucha*, *nuggar*, *nullah*, *numdah*, *nuphar*, *nuzzer*, *nylgau*, and some others.

For reasons of historical or other interest attention may also be directed to the articles on *nicker* sb.<sup>1</sup>, *nicotian(a)*, *nill* (sb.<sup>1</sup>), *nisi prius*, *noli me tangere*, *nonconformist*, *nonjuror*, *nostoc*, *novel* (sb.), and *nutmeg*.