

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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PENNAGE—PLAT.

BY

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PREFATORY NOTES.

THIS Second Part of the letter P includes 6269 Main words, 1008 combinations explained under these, and 1358 Subordinate entries of obsolete forms, etc., 8635 in all. The *obvious combinations* recorded and illustrated under the Main words number 1110 more, raising the total to 9745. Of the 6269 Main words, 4941 (about 78 $\frac{5}{8}$ %) are now current and naturalized English, 942 (about 15%) are marked † as obsolete, and 386 (about 6 $\frac{1}{8}$ %) as † alien, or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some more recent Dictionaries shows the following figures:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded	865	4265	5295	5740	9745
Words illustrated by quotations	699	1074	1302	403	7896
Number of illustrative quotations	2204	1609	3083	565	32,714

The quotations in Richardson for the corresponding words are 1579.

Pennage to Pf. In this section the rarity of Teutonic words with initial P is strongly marked; for the only word having any claim to be original English (having been at least West Germanic from the dawn of history) is PENNY. This makes also one of the most entertaining articles, whether considered in regard to its own history and senses, the many proverbial phrases into which it enters, or the number of penny combinations, e. g. *penny-weight*, *penny-wise*, *pennyworth*, *penny-post*, *penny-reading*, *penny-in-the-slot*, etc.; note also the combinations with a numeral, *twopence*, *twopences*, *twopenny*, and the history of the term *tenpenny nail* (sense 10). At the very end of the section comes the cognate *pfennig*, which, though only an alien word, has a history of some length in English. The next oldest word here dealt with is apparently PEPPER, which, though from Latin, was probably adopted before the English entered Britain, being found also in the other West Germanic languages. Two or three other words from Latin are of Old English age, but the vast majority of the words are of later date, from French, or from Latin direct. Among the more important are PEOPLE, PERSON, PETTY (with its earlier form *petit*), PERCH, in its various senses; also *pennon*, *pension* (*old-age pension*), *penthouse*, *peony*, *percussion*, PEREGRINE, *perfect*, *perpendicular*, *perspective*, PEST (and *pestilence*), *pestle*, *petrol* (and *petroleum*), *pewtter*; and the verbs PERFORM, *perish*, PERPETRATE, *perplex*, *persecute*, *persevere*, *personate*, PERSPIRE, *persuade*, *pertain*, PERUSE, *pervert*, some of which are etymologically noteworthy. Numerous Latin phrases in PER, e. g. *per annum*, *per diem*, *per accidens*, *per contra*, *per se* (whence † *perseity*), are in common English use, and are here treated. Words from Greek are also numerous, esp. the groups in *penta-* and *peri-*. Interesting examples are PENTATEUCH and PENTECOST (traced back to their first appearance in Greek); also the curious PENTAGRAM, with its synonyms *pentalpha*, *pentacle*, and *pentangle*. In *peri-*, besides PERIOD, there are many astronomical, botanical, and biological terms, the history of which has been carefully worked out by scientific collaborators. Among other languages represented are Breton (*peulvan*), Syriac (*Peshito*), Persian (*peri*, *peštava*, etc.), Urdu (*pergunnah*, etc.), Tamil (*pettah*), Burmese (*petwood*), Chinese (*petuntse*), Algonkin (*persimmon*), Guarani (*petun*, *petunia*).

Among words of historical importance are PERSONAL (in the legal sense), *petition*, *peremptory*, *perjury*, *perquisite*; of philosophical note PERCEPTION, *pessimism*; of scientific interest, PARABOLA, *penumbra*, *perigee*, *perihelion*. Of others, PERUKE and PERIWIG, *periwinkle* (flower and mollusc), PETER and its derivatives (not omitting *Peter-see-me*), PETREL, PETTICOAT, and PEW, present various noteworthy features, and have, some of them, a curious history.

Among words of which the derivation and history are more accurately treated than heretofore are *peri*, *petigrew*, *petrel*, *pew*.

** For the use of those who bind the Dictionary in half-volumes, a title-page and prefatory note to the half-volume O to Pf- are given at the end of this section.

Ph- to Piper. This section begins the second half of Volume VII, and includes all the words beginning with PH-. The PH words form a group by themselves, not originally nor phonetically belonging to P. With insignificant exceptions, they are derivatives from Greek words in φ, which the Romans, not identifying it with their F, represented by the digraph PH. The initial article gives the history of this symbol in English. By far the most of these words are scientific or

philosophical; large groups occur under the elements *phanero-*, *pharmaco-*, *pharyngo-*, *phen(o-*, *phil(o-*, *phleb(o-*, *phon(o-*, *phospho-*, *photo-*, *phreno-*, *phyllo-*, and *physico-*. The most extensive of these is the group of PHOTO- words, which are with difficulty compressed into 15 columns, and number no fewer than 240, all except 3 being of the 19th century, and all except 6 consequent upon the introduction of photography in 1839. Such an addition to the vocabulary has the discovery of one physical principle brought about! The earliest *photo* word was *photosphere*, used by Dr. Henry More in 1664, but annexed by astronomers about 1848. The *ph-* words are not, as a whole, of much historical interest or curiosity; but there are many exceptions, e.g. *phantasmagoria*, *philander*, *philatelic*, PHILOSOPHERS' STONE, PHLOGISTON, PHOENIX, *phonograph*, PHOSPHORUS, *phrenology*, PHYSIC, *physician*, PHOTOGRAPHY (the tracing of which to its first use by Sir John Herschell in 1839 has been a work in which many have lent their aid). Many *ph-* words, also, have passed into everyday use: such are *phaeton*, *phalanx*, *phantom* (which has surrendered most of its family to F: cf. *fantasy*, *fantastic*, *fancy*, etc.), *phase*, PHEASANT (in 13th c. *fesaund*, *fesaunt*), *phenomenon*, *phial*, *philanthropy*, *philosopher* (1325), PHILOSOPHY (originally *filosofie*), *philter*, *phiz*, *phlegm*, *phlegmatic*, *phlox*, *phonetic*, *phossy*, *photo*, *phrase*, *phthisic* (in 14th c. *lysyk*), *physic* (in 13th c. *fisike*), *physician* (c. 1200 *fiscien*), *physiognomy*, *physique* (adapted in 19th c. from French). Through Greek from Semitic came also *Pharaoh* (originally Egyptian), *Pharisee*, and *Philistine*, which, with their offspring, have become quite at home amongst us.

Leaving the PH words, we return to P proper, and enter with *pi-* upon a series of words which are to a great extent in common use, but of many of which the ultimate origin and early history are extremely obscure, and the determination of their sense-development correspondingly difficult. Among these there is no word certainly or even probably of Germanic origin, although *pick* v.¹, *pike* sb.², *piddle*, *pingle* v.¹, *pink* a.¹, and a few others, occur in other Germanic dialects, where their origin is as obscure as in English. Several existed in OE. (and some in other Teutonic languages) as early or later borrowings from Latin; such were *pile* sb.¹, *pill* v.¹, *pillow*, PIN, *pine* sb.¹ and v., *ping* v.¹, *pipe* sb.¹ v.¹; *pip*¹, which appeared in ME., has a similar origin. Others can be ascribed certainly to French, Romanic, or late L., but their ulterior origin is unknown: among these are *piece* (a word of extreme difficulty), *pier* (in 12th c. L. *pera*), *pike* and *pick* in some senses, *pillory*, *pinch*, *paint*. Others again have not at present been traced outside English, where they have 'cropped up' at various dates: such are *pie*², *pig*, *pightle*, *pigwidgin*, *ping*², PINK (flower and colour), *pinnock*, *pip*² (orig. *peep*), etc. It has been noted before how often one monosyllabic form suffices for numerous distinct words: here *pick* stands for 9, *pike* for 16, *pink* for 12, *pip* for 6, *pipe* for 5. The words spelt PICK form a complicated group, some of them connected on one side with *peak*, on another with *pike*. PIKE as the name of mountains and hills in the Lake district, as 'Scawfell Pike', was in full use in 1250, while as an earlier form of *peak* in the 'Pike of Teneriffe' it came in with the navigators, from Spanish or Portuguese *pico*, three centuries later.

Among articles of special interest, often containing new facts etymological or historical, may be mentioned *pia mater*, *pica*, *piccadill*, *piccaninny*, *pickle*, *pickle-herring*, PICNIC (introduced from France in 1802), *pie*³, *pie-powder*, *pigsney*, PILGARLIC, *pilgrim*, PILGRIM FATHERS (the annals of which we owe to Mr. Albert Matthews of Boston, U.S.), *Pilgrimage of Grace*, *Cardinal's pillars* (PILLAR 5), *pilliwinks*, *pillory*, *pinckbeck*, *pimpernel* (which has passed so curiously from plant to plant), *pink*¹, *pinkeny*, *pinnacle*, (policy of) *pin-pricks*. To these may be added *piano*, *piazza*, *picket*, *pick-a-back*, *pillion*¹, *pine*², and *pine-apple*.

Piper to Plat. Among the important articles here are PITCH vb.¹ and sb.² (very intricate and difficult), PLACE, PLAGUE, PLAIN adj., PLAN, PLANT, PLANTATION, PLANTER, words notable for their sense-development. It is, for example, a 'far cry' from the sense of a sprout, slip, or seedling-plant, to a manufacturer's plant, a burglar's or sharper's 'plant', or a 'plant' of the police to detect the law-breaking automobilist. Other words interesting for their history or historical use are *pistol*, *pistole*, PIT (see *pit and gallows*), *pittance*, *pivot* (see *pivot-word*), *pixy*, PLACARD, *placet*, *plack*, PLAGIARY, *plain* sb., PLAINTIFF, *plait*, PLANET (*planet-stricken*), *plantain*², *plaster*, *plastron*. Etymologically, most of the early words come from Old French, ulteriorly from Latin: such are *pirate*, *pitcher*, *pileous*, *pity*, *pittance*, *plaiice*, *plain*, *plait*, *plane* (tree), *plank*, *plantain*¹, *plash* (a hedge) vb.; also *place*, though Old Northumbrian had made an earlier trial of this from Latin, as *plæce*, *plælse*. *Pit*, *pitch* sb.¹ were in OE. from Latin, as were *plant* sb. and vb., and *plaster* (though subsequently reinforced from French); *pitch* vb.¹, *plith*, *plash* a shallow pool, also go back to OE. and, in part, to common W. Germanic use, but are unknown farther back; *pirl*, *pirr*, *pirrie*, *pit-a-pat*, *pitter* (in part), *plap*, *plash* vb.², sb.², appear to be onomatopœic. Among the scientific terms from Greek are *plasm*, *plastic*, and their kin. *Pistachio* is of Old Persian origin, but many stages, Greek, Latin, and Romanic, intervene. Words from remote or uncultured tongues are not numerous; the most noteworthy is *piragua*, with its doublet *pirogue*; to these *plantain*², the tropical fruit, should perhaps be added.

As already mentioned, P abounds with words as to the origin of which there is no evidence. For some of these here entered as 'origin unknown' or 'unascertained', various conjectures are to be found in professed etymological works and special papers; but of these suggestions only such as seem to have permanent value are here mentioned. To discuss untenable etymological conjectures, in order to show why they are untenable, would occupy space which our limits do not afford.

The materials for this and the preceding part of P were arranged by our indefatigable volunteer sub-editor Miss J. E. A. Brown, of Further Barton, Cirencester. Acknowledgement of other help and collaboration will be made in the Preface to the volume. But mention must here be made of two esteemed contributors, whom death has taken from us while this Part has been passing through the press. One of these, Mr. Alexander Beazeley, C.E., formerly engaged as an Engineer in the construction of lighthouses and other important public works at home and in the colonies, and more recently Librarian to the Royal Institute of British Architects, was a devoted friend of the Dictionary from its very commencement, reading for it with judgement and skill a large number of books, from which he extracted and sent in more than 30,000 quotations; besides which he assisted in investigating the history of terms pertaining to Architecture, Engineering, Lighthouses, and other associated subjects. Mr. Beazeley's services to the Dictionary came to an end only with his death, which took place at Weymouth on 1 Dec. 1905. A detailed notice of his career appeared in the *Proceedings* of the Institution of Civil Engineers for 1905-6, vol. CLXV, pt. iii. Dr. William Sykes, M.D., F.S.A., formerly of Mexborough, recently of Redclyffe House, Paignton, Devon, where he died on 21 Sept. 1906, from being an early critic of the Dictionary in *Notes and Queries*, became one of its most zealous contributors, labouring especially for its perfection in the history and definition of terms of Medicine and Surgery, for which he contributed many thousand quotations from standard medical works. His interest was unflagging, and almost the last act of his life was a letter to the Editor concerning the destination of books from his library, which might to some extent continue his help after he himself passed away. Dr. Sykes was an ardent hospital worker, and his public services in the organization of the Montagu Hospital at Mexborough, are recognized in an appreciative biographical article in the *Mexborough and Swinton Times* of 3rd November last. The Dictionary has sustained no such loss as this of Mr. Beazeley and Dr. Sykes, since the death of Fitzedward Hall in February 1901.