PREFACE TO VOLUME VII.

This volume contains the words beginning with the letters O and P. Including the Main words, to which separate articles are allotted, the special Combinations or compounds explained and illustrated under the Main words, and the Subordinate entries of obsolete and variant forms entered in their alphabetical places, with a reference to the Main words under which they are treated and illustrated, the number of words amounts to 41,657. The Combinations of simple and obvious meaning, of which lists are given under the Main words, without separate explanation, but in most cases with illustrative quotations, number 7,203, raising the actual total of words and compounds recorded in the volume to 48,870.

These words are thus distributed among the letters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Main words</th>
<th>Subordinate words</th>
<th>Special Combinations</th>
<th>Obvious Combinations</th>
<th>Total No. of Words</th>
<th>No. of Quotations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>356 pages</td>
<td>7,118</td>
<td>1,198</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>11,181</td>
<td>38,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-Pf</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>7,208</td>
<td>1,811</td>
<td>1,470</td>
<td>11,770</td>
<td>41,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph-Fy</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>15,974</td>
<td>3,384</td>
<td>3,360</td>
<td>25,819</td>
<td>94,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30,300</td>
<td>6,393</td>
<td>4,974</td>
<td>7,203</td>
<td>48,870</td>
<td>175,130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Considered as to their status in the language, the Main words are distinguished approximately into those which are native or fully naturalized, and still current, those now obsolete (marked †), and those considered to be alien or imperfectly naturalized (marked ||), although in the case of both the latter it is often difficult to draw the line. The distribution of the 30,300 Main words is approximately as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Obsolete</th>
<th>Alien</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>5,347</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>7,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-Pf</td>
<td>5,471</td>
<td>1,201</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>7,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph-Fy</td>
<td>12,302</td>
<td>2,628</td>
<td>1,044</td>
<td>15,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23,120</td>
<td>5,335</td>
<td>1,845</td>
<td>30,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Etymologically considered, the O section and the P section of the English vocabulary differ greatly in the proportions of their elements. O is in this respect an ordinary letter, containing a good proportion of words of Anglo-Saxon derivation, beside those of later adoption, from Scandinavian, Old French, Latin, and Greek, and more distant languages. Among the words that go back to Old English use are the prepositions of (to the lexicographer the longest and most difficult of English prepositions, the treatment of which in this Dictionary occupies 18 columns), off, on, over, the adverbs off, on, often, out, the conjunction or, the numeral and pronoun one with its derivatives once, only, etc., the pronominal words other, our, own, the verbs ought, owe, own: all of great interest to the student of the historical grammar of the language. There are also numerous well-known substantives, as oak, oakum, ear, oat, ooe, ordeal, own, owl, and important adjectives as old and open. To these must be added the words compounded with out (1,250, including 775 Main words), and over (2,173, including 1,413 Main words). The out- and over-compounds occupy more than a fourth of O. The words from Latin include the compounds in ob- and its phonetic variants, oe-, of-, op-, and important words such as order and its family. Among the words from Greek are the numerous compounds in ortho-, and the chemical terms related to oxygen.

In P, on the other hand, the words that go back to Old English are a very small company. Of the 23,000 Main words here dealt with, about 80 appear in the Anglo-Saxon Dictionary, of which, however,

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1 Adding these to the words in Volumes I–VI, we have for the portion of the alphabet from A to P the following figures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main words</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Obsolete</th>
<th>Alien</th>
<th>Subordinate words</th>
<th>Special Combinations</th>
<th>Obvious Combinations</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160,519</td>
<td>146,134</td>
<td>11,197</td>
<td>3,188</td>
<td>46,440</td>
<td>30,139</td>
<td>33,819</td>
<td>264,917</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the letters O and P, the comparative scale of this work and of certain other Dictionaries is shown by the following figures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Johnson's</th>
<th>Cassell's Encyclopaedia</th>
<th>'Century' Dict.</th>
<th>'Funk's Standard.'</th>
<th>Here</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Words recorded</td>
<td>4,485</td>
<td>19,873</td>
<td>25,685</td>
<td>27,097</td>
<td>48,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Words illustrated by quotations</td>
<td>3,661</td>
<td>6,347</td>
<td>8,388</td>
<td>11,379</td>
<td>35,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of illustrative quotations</td>
<td>12,111</td>
<td>9,642</td>
<td>20,340</td>
<td>3,743</td>
<td>175,330</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The quotations in Richardson's Dictionary in O and P are 9,640.
NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY.

50 were borrowings from Latin, leaving only about 30 really 'native', most of them found in other Germanic languages. Among the chief of these are pang, path, penny, pitch, play, plight, plough, peck, pool, pretly, prick, puff, pull, put. Of these the two last scarcely appear in Old English, but have since become verbs of great importance; the article PUT is, after GO, the longest as yet in the Dictionary, and has proved one of the most difficult. From causes stated in the article on the letter P, this was the rarest initial consonant in Old English, occupying in Bosworth-Toller's Anglo-Saxon Dictionary only one-fifth of the space of O. But its constant accessions from other languages, and apparently its aptitude to form onomatopoeic words, have made it in the modern dictionary next in compass to S and C, with which it forms a triad of gigantic letters, containing together considerably more than a fourth of all the words in the language. The accessions continued with the 50 words from Latin already mentioned, some, like pile, pit, and pound, of West Germanic age, but most of them only pre-Conquest English, either ecclesiastical, as pull, pope, priest, prime, or names of foreign plants and animals, as parsley, pear, pease, pepper, peacock. The accessions continued with the words from Old French, in origin mostly Latin, and subsequently with words formed directly from Latin (sometimes ultimately from Greek), and also, from the 16th century, in the terminology of philosophy and science, from Greek directly. From the 16th century, words began to crowd in from other European and more distant tongues, until now there are to be found in the P division of this volume representatives of more than 50 languages. To these there have been added a considerable number of words of unknown origin, many no doubt onomatopoeic of English or its dialects. The compass of the letter has been greatly enlarged by the words formed with the Latin prefixes per-, post-, pre-, pro- (with its OF. form pur-), and with the Greek prefixes para-, peri-, pro-, and the formatives pan-, panto-, philo-, poly-, pseudo-, pyro-, etc. The words in PH are an alien group, representing (with few exceptions) Greek words in Φ, for which Roman spelling substituted Ph, and which thus come in between Pe- and Pi-, at once to swell the P vocabulary and to increase its Greek elements. Of the 23,000 Main words in P, nearly 7,900—more than one-third of the whole,—are of Greek derivation, or are formed with a Greek prefix or first element. This is a proportion much larger than obtains in the language as a whole.

The material collected up to 1885 for O to OM- was arranged chronologically and in part sub-edited by Miss Margaret Haig, of Blairhill, Stirlingshire (now Mrs. Alexander Stuart). The section Oo- to OPPROBRIUM was skilfully sub-edited by the late Rev. W. J. Löwenberg, of Starkies, Bury, 1887-96, who died in 1899, before seeing any part of O in type. The section OPPUGN to OW- was sub-edited 1895-6 by Mr. James Bartlett, of Cleverlea, Bramley, Guildford, who after more than 20 years' voluntary work at the Dictionary, during which he sub-edited also G, parts of M, R, and S, died on 15 August, 1908. The very technical section from Ox to OZ- was arranged and sub-edited by Mr. H. A. Nesbitt, B.A. in 1895. For PA-, the material collected by the Philological Society had, in consequence of the death of the person who undertook its sub-editing, been nearly all lost or destroyed. It had in consequence to be collected anew, which was largely done by the late Mr. E. S. Jackson, M.A., Plymouth; as it accumulated, it was arranged, and finally sub-edited, 1882-7, by the late Miss J. E. A. Brown, of Cirencester. The slips for PE- to PELY- were sub-edited in 1884 by Mr. James Britton, F.L.S.; those for PEM- to PERP- by Mr. R. M'Lintock, of Liverpool, in 1885 and 1893-6; and those for Pers- to PIl- by Mr. W. J. Anderson, then of Markinch, who died in February, 1900. The large section PIM- to PROF- was laboriously sub-edited by Miss J. E. A. Brown, one of the most devoted and enthusiastic of our volunteer helpers, between 1900 and her sudden death on 19 February, 1907. Her work was ably continued, PROFIT to PHy, by the late Mr. C. B. Winchester, in 1907-8. The earlier material for Pr- to Pu- had been put in order by the late Mr. P. W. Jacob in 1885. The whole section Pe- to PHY- was revised, with much new material, 1901-4, by our valued coadjutor the Rev. C. B. Mount, M.A., who also sub-edited, with much original research, the last section Ps- to Pyxix in 1904-7. The generous and, in many cases, long-continued services of these voluntary collaborators, so few of whom, alas! survive, call for the fullest and most grateful recognition.

In the revision and improvement of the work in the proof stage, continuous and indefatigable help has been rendered by Misses E. P. and Edith Thompson, of Lansdown, Bath, whose investigations of the sense-history of difficult words, have been most fruitful and valuable; also by the Rev. Canon Fowler, D.C.L., Durham, the Rev. J. B. Johnston, B.D., Falkirk, Mr. A. Caland, of Wageningen, Holland, Monsieur F. J. Amours, Glasgow, and in later parts by Professor F. E. Bumby, Nottingham. Assistance with the proofs has been only a small part of the gratuitous services rendered to the Dictionary by Mr. R. J. Whitwell, B.Litt. Oxon., who has contributed to the history of legal, historical, and other words by special investigations in the Bodleian and Codrington Libraries, the British Museum, and the Public Record Office. Many of our earlier illustrations for such words are the fruit of his researches. Five of our zealous helpers in this department have been removed by death during the preparation of this volume: the Right Hon. Lord Aldenham, who had sub-edited parts of C and K for the Philological Society, and had read our proofs from the beginning, died in September, 1907, Dr. W. Sykes, F.S.A., who supplied
most of our quotations for recent medical terms, died in September, 1906; Mr. E. L. Brandreth, who had
sub-edited portions of H, K, and N, besides reading our proofs, and verifying references in the British
Museum Library, died in December, 1907; Mr. C. B. Winchester, who, as reader, sub-editor, and, and,
after the death of Mr. Brandreth, collaborator of quotations in the British Museum, was the most valued of
our later volunteer coadjutors, died in December, 1908; Mr. Chichester Hart, of Curraghblagh, Portsalon,
Donegal, who added to the proofs many quotations from 16th and 17th century dramatists, died in 1908.

The scholars and men of science who have given their assistance in the present volume include
nearly all those who have been named in the Prefaces to volumes V and VI, to whom again grateful
thanks are recorded. More especially must mention be made of etymological and philological help rendered
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Bodley's Librarian, Dr. Jenkinson, University Librarian, Cambridge, the late and present Keepers of the
Advocates' Library; Edinburgh, the Librarian of the Patent Office, London, the Librarians of the Congress

Obscura, a. and v. 1. Earlier examples - 1432-50 tr. Higden (Rolls) II. 55 There should be other names of cities founde in cronicles obscure to the historiographer. Ibid., That synge dreamed that: - the bloode of hym obscured and hidde the sonne.

Obstinate, a. An obstinate tendency - 1561 T. HOBY tr. Castiglione's Castiglion. (1577) I. 66 If, And of these errors there are divers other calls and among other the obstinacies of princes. + Obsaurn'd, v. Obs. trans. To make dull of hearing, deafen: - 1639 J. WELLES "Selleis Progr. 109 Old Age .. dimmed with blindness, obscured with deafness.

Occupiable, a. rare. Capable of being occupied: - 1813 WHEWELL "Grotius" I. 256 In things which are properly one's, two things are occupiable; the lordship, and the ownership.

Octagonian, a. Earlier example: - 1598 [see hexagonal].

Ogives. Early example: - 1537-8 Ely Sac. Rolls 1907 II. 180 In Lev. petiliss de celliss empt. per pese illd. ob. 100. &

Okaali (okapi). African. A quadrupled allied to the giraffe, discovered by Sir Harry Johnston in 1900: - 1901 RAY LANKESTER in "Times" June 2nd After an examination of the skulls I am of opinion that the 'Okaali' (the native name by which the new animal is known) must be placed in a new genus.

Omnium I. Omnium gatherum. Quot. 1777 should be dated 1761.

Otherkin. Delete quot a. 1773, which reads 'A yeare cunne'.

Oudeman. Earlier example: - a 1586 Sidney Arcadia III. (1598) 424 To passe as that night at Mantinea, in the Oudeman streete, at Charitas vnce house.


Out-dweller. Earlier example: - 1594 NASHE "Unfort. Trav. Wks." (Grosart) V. 40 Anie stranger or out-dweller.

Outposter. Insert after sense i. - Publisher. 1583 Reg. Pripy Council Sect. Ser. II. 187 Sellaria and outposteris of their salutis bulkis.

Owmau. Etym. For omegna read omittita.


Package I. Earlier example: - 1540 in Proc. Privy Council (1537) VII. 49 Certain leade .. was stayed at London by the packer for lack of payment of package money.

Pagan. Etym. The explanation of L. pāganus in the sense 'non-Christian, heathen', as arising out of that of 'villager, rustic', given by O'Conor (a Spaniard) 417, has been shown to be chronologically and historically untenable, for this use of the word goes back to Tertullian c. 201, when paganism was still the public and dominant religion, and every antipathy according to Lanckriet, in an epitaph of the 2nd cent. The explanation is now found in the L. use of pāgnus as 'a civilian, non-militant', opposed to miles, soldier, one of the army. The Christians called themselves militēs enrolled soldiers of Christ, members of his militant church, and applied to non-Christians the term applied by soldiers to all who were not enrolled in the army. Cf. Tertullian De Coro Militis xi. 'April hunc [Christum] tam milites fidelis quam pāganus est miles infidelis'. See also Gibson xxii. note.

Pamp. For further evidence of this word: - see Pomp n.2


Parchment. Delete 'cf. Passementer.'


Particulate. a. In reference to organic matter, introduced 1871 by SIR J. BURDON SANDERSON (paper) "On Origin of Bacteria.

Peltry. Quots. 1480, 1496, 1565 are removed to PILFER sth. in their place Insert 1485 Promp. Parv. 391/1 (MS. S.) Pelfry, spoliun.

Petti, a. 1. Obs. add. excl. in special collocations: - see 5.

-phil. Delete 'Hence also -philous, q. v.'

Philosophic, a. 1 b. Add Philosophic coton: - see Cotton 7.

Pistile Ia. Delete 'fixed erect .. small boats' the ordinary practice in all cases being to have the pistiles on the rudder.

Pleromorph, Plerophory. In etym., correct Plerophry to Pleromph.

Plunky I. Literary example: - 1891 G. P. MERRILL "Stone's for Build, 39 Fine grained compact rocks .. break into concave and convex shell-like surfaces .. such stones are called plunky by the workmen.


Poleaxe: - see PONDLIKE.

Polymerician (s.v. POLY- 1). Delete 'nence-wad,' Earlier example: - 1858 BURGER'S Catal. 22 Polymerician series of New Testaments [etc.] 32 mo. size.

Pomme1, sb. Should be a distinct word, a. F. paumelle in same sense. Earlier example: - 1839 URE Diet. Arts 377 The pomme1 (paumelle) is so called because it clothes the palm of the hand.

Port, sb. 2. Earlier example: - 1543-4 (Jan. 11) Adm. Ct. Examin. 22 (Spyker's Depo.) The sayd [ship] mighte have layed his helme a porte.


Postnaries. Read: So Postnarial a. (a) situated behind the nostril: 1866 [see PRENARIAL b]; (b) belonging to the postanese.

Ponourale. For definition 3, substitute: b. Subsequently used in the sense Purale, as more fully shown under the form Purale, q. v.

Prehalteres. Earlier: - 1840 see pseudaltheres: s.v. PSEUDO- 2.

Previdence. In etym. read 'Late Latin.' Early example: - c.1374 CHAUCER "Booth. v. gr. vi. 85 (Sk.) For which it is nat y-clipped previndence, but it shoulde rather ben y-clipped purviance.


Pronaolectie. Substitute for definition 'Catalectic in its former colon'. 1843 T. F. BARKHAM "Hephaestion 195.