

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME VIII. Q-S.)

Q.

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NOTE.

THIS section, commencing Vol. VIII and comprising the whole of the letter Q, contains 1407 Main words, 265 Combinations explained under these, and 649 Subordinate entries; in all 2321. The obvious combinations, recorded and illustrated by quotations, but not requiring individual explanation, number 408 more. Of the 1407 Main words, 962 are current and fully 'English,' 389 (27½%) are marked † as obsolete, and 56 (4%) are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic.'	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard.'	Here.
Words recorded	245	874	1058	971	2729
Words illustrated by quotations	182	349	461	108	2253
Number of illustrative quotations	611	561	1316	156	9480

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 660.

Comparatively few of the words beginning with Q in English are of native origin. Out of the 80 pages of which this section consists, not more than 16 are occupied with the treatment of native words (even including several of doubtful etymology which appear in early Middle English). On the other hand the Latin element (adopted directly or through French) covers rather more than 50 pages. Of those words which have come down from OE. and are still in current use, the most important are *quake*, *quean*, *queen*, *quell*, *quench*, *quern*, *quick* (which with its derivatives and combinations occupies 18 columns), and *quoith* (a relic of the obs. vb. *quethe*). The other Teutonic tongues have contributed very little; † *quart* (a. and sb.¹) and *quey* are from ON., *quacksalver* (abbrev. *quack*) from Du., and *quartz* from German. Here may also be mentioned an interesting group of onomatopœic words which express the idea of shaking or trembling, as *quab*, *quag* (see also *quagmire*), *quap*, *quave*, *quaver*, *quiver*, *quop*.

A notable feature of the Latin element in Q is the number of words adopted without change of form as *quære*, *quantum*, *quarto*, *quondam*, *quorum*, etc. Those modified in accordance with English usage are also very numerous and important. Some of these were no doubt originally adopted through OF., which has otherwise contributed largely, e.g. *quaint*, *quarrel*, *quarry*, *quarter* (with a remarkable development of special senses, combinations, etc., extending to 19 columns), *quest*, *quilt*, *quite*, etc. From mod. F. come *quadrille*, *quarie*, *quartet*(te), *quinte* and *qui vive* (erroneously explained in most English dicts.). The other Romanic tongues are very slightly represented.

More remote languages (American, African, etc.) have given such words as *quagga*, *quahaug*, *quamash*, *quandong*, *quassia*, *quetsal*, *quina* (with numerous derivatives) and *quinoa*: in the etymologies of these some advances have been made on previous dictionaries.

More or less obscurity still attaches to the etymology of a considerable number of words in this section, some of which have been the subject of much discussion. Such are *quaff*, *quail* vb., *qualm* sb.³, *quandary*, *queasy*, *queer*, *quibble*, *quill*, *quip*, *quirk*, *quiver* vb., *quiz* and *quoit*. In these cases the historical evidence collected here may assist in leading to more definite results than have yet been attained.

In order that the whole of Q might be issued at once, this section has been enlarged from 64 to 80 pages. The double section commencing R will accordingly contain only 112 pages instead of 128.