

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME VIII. Q-SH.)

SHASTRI—SHYSTER.

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NOTE.

THIS enlarged double section (160 pages) includes 1406 Main words, 987 Special Combinations explained under these, and 646 Subordinate entries; in all 3039. The *obvious combinations* recorded and illustrated number 631, making a total of 3670. Of the Main words 230 (16½%) are marked † as obsolete, and 37 (2½%) are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopaedic'.*	'Century' Dict.*	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded <i>Shastri</i> to <i>Shyster</i>	264	1270	1525	1506	3670
Words illustrated by quotations	212	433	582	161	3077
Number of illustrative quotations	1000	702	1873	211	20,109

* Including Supplement.

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 782.

With respect to the etymological character of the words treated, this section presents an extraordinary contrast with every other equally extensive portion of the Dictionary hitherto published. That the initial of the words is the digraph *Sh-* involves the entire absence (except for phonetic or graphic abnormalities) of words adopted or derived from Greek, Latin, French, and Old Norse. In every previous section each of these sources has been more or less represented, and not uncommonly the classical and French elements, taken together, have predominated (numerically, and sometimes also with regard to the space occupied) over all the rest. Among the words included in this section, the only Latin derivatives are *shrine*, *shrive* and its cognates (which go back to Old English), *shingle* and *shingles*. From Old French we have *shawm* (with anomalous *sh* for *ch*); and *shock* sb.³ and vb.² must, so far as the sense is concerned, be regarded as adopted from French in the sixteenth century, although they coincide in form with older English words having some affinity of meaning. Words of Greek and of Scandinavian origin are entirely wanting. The list of adoptions from Asiatic, African, and American languages would be a somewhat long one, but, with the exception of the Persian *shawl*, the Persian-Arabic *sherbet*, and the Hebrew *shibboleth* and *shekel*, none of these words has much currency in English. Celtic is represented only by two or three loan-words from Irish.

There are several words (e. g. *shive* sb.¹, *shore* sb.¹) which, appearing first in the Middle English period or later, have corresponding forms in continental Teutonic, and respecting which it is not always possible to decide whether they descend from unrecorded Old English forms or were adopted from Low German or Dutch. By far the greater part of the section, however, is occupied with words that have come down from Old English. Most of these, in the course of their long history, have developed a multitude of senses, many of which have become obsolete. It is therefore not surprising that the portion of the English vocabulary here included takes up a much larger proportion of space in this Dictionary than in others, which are concerned only with the modern period of the language.

Among the words interesting for sense-development may be mentioned *shed* vb.¹, *sheen* adj., *sheet* sb.¹ and sb.², *shift* sb. and vb., *shine* vb., *shirk* sb. and vb., *shoot* vb., *short* adj., *shot* sb., *shove* vb., *show* sb. and vb., *shrew* sb.¹ and sb.², *shrewd* adj., *shrift* sb. and *shrive* vb., *shun* vb., *shunt* sb. and vb., *shy* adj. The quotations under the words *sheriff*, *shire*, and *shilling* afford useful illustration of many points relating to English history.

In most of the articles above referred to the etymology of the words has been treated with greater fullness or precision than in previous Dictionaries. An etymological problem of peculiar difficulty is that relating to the origin of the pronoun *she*; the solution here offered is not altogether certain, but appears to be that indicated by such evidence as is extant.