A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME X. SECOND HALF. V—Z.)

WAVY—WEZZON.

BY

HENRY BRADLEY, M.A., HON. D.LITT.

AND

W. A. CRAIGIE, M.A., LL.D., D.LITT.

PREFATORY NOTES.

In this section of the Dictionary there are 1481 Main words, 456 Special Combinations explained under these, 416 Obvious Combinations, and 850 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms: in all 3203. Of the Main words 367 are marked † as obsolete, and ‡ are marked ‡ as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some other dictionaries gives the following figures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word Type</th>
<th>Johnson</th>
<th>Cassell's 'Encyclopedic' and Suppl.</th>
<th>'Century' Dict. and Suppl.</th>
<th>Here.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Words recorded</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>1218</td>
<td>3203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Words illustrated by quotations</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>2406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of quotations</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1149</td>
<td>17707</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 676.

In this instalment of W the vocabulary, with very few exceptions, is of native origin; the great majority of the fundamental words go back to Old English, have a continuous history down to the present day, and have given rise to many derivative and compound forms. Among the important nouns so represented are wax, way (extending to 27 columns), weal, weil (with an interesting history), wealth, weapon, wassand, wasel, wheather, wel, wad (a pledge), wedd, wedge, wedding, Wednesday, weel (plant), weed (garment), week, wel (pool), well (basket), weevil, weft, weight, weir, weird, welcome, welfare, within, well, wen, wench (earlier wenchet), west, wet (earlier wele), wheather, and wey. Compounds with wax-, way-, weather-, or well- as the first element are also numerous. Welld (the dye) and well (of a shoe, etc.) are probably native, though not recorded in OE. Adjectives of early origin, as waxen, twaelf, twarry, Welsh, are rare; of later date are wayxy, wayward, wealthy, weigh, weird (an interesting development from the noun), well (from the adverb), and well (by substitution for the earlier wele). The older verbs include wax (to grow), wean, wear, wease, weel, weed, ween, weep, weel (to know), weigh, well, wend, wene (to defend), wel (earlier wele). Of other parts of speech the most notable are the pronoun we and the adverbs well and west. Well has not only developed a very large number of special or contextual senses, requiring twelve columns of illustration, but has supplied a noun and adjective, and has been so extensively employed as the first element in compounds (many of which are of long standing in the language) that these extend to over 50 columns, and are in reality almost inexhaustible.

Many of the above words present features of special interest, and attention may also be directed to the articles on way-bit, way-led, way-wiecr, waygoose, wean (= child), wedmonfð, Wedgewood, wee adj., weeping cross, wellaway, Welsh rabbit, wertewolf, and wergeld.

The other Germanic tongues are very scantily represented; Scandinavian has supplied the adj. weak (on which weaken, weakly, etc., have been formed), wappen as a northern dialect variant of weapon, and the verb well (to roll), while the related weler is from Dutch or Low German. From Old French come the obsolete wayment, waymont, and wayour. Gaelic has furnished woom, Magyar waywood as a variant of Vâr, Voivode, and Arabic wayir, a more original form of Vizier. Of imitative origin are weew sh. and v, weet v, teed weet, and weether.

The articles in this section as far as weigh were revised and sent to the printer by Dr. Bradley; the remainder, after the usual preparation by his staff, have been edited by Dr. Craigie with the co-operation of Mr. Worrall.