PREFACE TO THE LETTER V.

In this portion of the Dictionary there are 4219 Main words, 393 Special Combinations explained under these, 1492 Obvious Combinations, and 1671 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 7775 entries. Of the Main words 1074 are marked † as obsolete, and 257 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following results:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Words recorded</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>2790</td>
<td>3744</td>
<td>3168</td>
<td>7775</td>
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<td>Words illustrated by quotations</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>1455</td>
<td>1533</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>5954</td>
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<td>Number of quotations</td>
<td>1738</td>
<td>1881</td>
<td>4393</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>40,418</td>
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In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 1935.

For the reasons given in the introductory article on the letter, the words beginning with V are almost entirely of foreign origin, and the great majority either directly or indirectly have their source in Latin. Most of the important Latin stems with initial v are represented in English, and many of them very extensively, so that they frequently occupy large and continuous portions of the following pages. Many of the words from these stems are also found, with little change of form, in all the modern Romance languages; the vocabulary throughout this letter thus corresponds very closely with that of dictionaries in these tongues. As usual, many of the stems and their derivatives have passed into English through French, which has at different periods contributed a large number of common words, as vain, vale, valiant, valley, value, vanish, vanquish, vantage, varnish, etc. Notable among these is the adj. and adv. very, which forms one of the longest articles in this portion of the dictionary. An interesting group is also presented by the words formed with the prefix vant-. The prefix vis-, vi-, originally introduced from French, subsequently assumed the Latin form vice- (the exceptions of the earlier fener). This is one of a small number of words which have been adopted from the other Germanic languages; among these is veer, to let out (from Dutch vieren), which has hitherto been confused in dictionaries with the unrelated veer, to turn round (from French vire). Others are the Dutch veldt, vlei, vreue, and the Scandinavian Valhall, Valkyrie, viking, voe, and vole. The remotest European, with some Oriental, African, and American languages, have contributed such miscellaneous words as vaivode (voivode), vakeel, vampire, Veda, verst, vicuña, viscacha, visier, vodka, voodoo.

Words of similar form, but of different origin and meaning, are rarer than in some other portions of the alphabet; there are, however, seven substantives with the spelling vice. The variety of spelling possible in the older stages of English is well illustrated in the forms of verjuice, vicual, vinegar, and vouchsafe; the lack of obvious meaning in the latter was no doubt the main cause of the extraordinary variety of forms and spellings in which it appears down to the 16th century.

The historical interest of many of the words beginning with V is considerable. A number of these have ecclesiastical or religious associations, as valor (1 d), Vaticant, Vaticanism, etc., Vandal, Venite, verger, vernicle, veronica2, versicle, vesper, vestiary, vestry, vaticum, vicar, vicarage, victim (introduced by the Rhemish translators of the Bible), vigil, virgin, virtue, vision, etc. Others are of importance for social, political, or legal history, as vaccination, vagabond, vagrant, valentine, valet, varlet, vassal, vassavous, velocipede, ventilation, ventrioloquism, venue, verderer, verdict, verge sb., vice-chancellor, viceregent, victualer, viewer, villa, village, villein, virgate, voider, volunteer, volunter, vote (before 1600 almost exclusively in Scottish use), vouch, voucher, voucher, voyage, and vulgar. Many other words are of interest for various reasons, as verner, verse, vingette (with the earlier form vinet), viol, violin, vogue, volley, volume, vortex, etc.

The material first collected for V was arranged and sub-edited by the Rev. T. H. Sheppard in 1883. Much new material was incorporated, and the sub-editing revised, for V—VAGABOND by the Rev. C. B. Mount in 1908; VAGABOND—VANQUISH by Mr. C. B. Winchester in 1908; and VANQUISH—VYWER by the Rev. W. B. R. Wilson in 1910–13.

The staff which assisted in the preparation of the letter consisted of Mr. L. F. Powell, Mr. G. Watson, Mrs. Powell, Misses Elsie M. R. and Rosfrith A. N. R. Murray, Miss I. B. Hutchens, and Mr. E. N. Martin. Proofs were read by Canon J. T. Fowler, and verification at the British Museum was done by Mr. W. W. Jenkinson. For information on special points thanks are due to Canon Fowler, Dr. D. Hay Fleming, Mr. E. W. Hulme, Sir Frederick Pollock, Bart, and Mr. E. J. Thomas.

OXFORD, Aug. 1937.

W. A. CRAIGIE.
ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

**Variolist.** [f. Variol-a + -ist.] One who prefers small-pox to vaccination.

1799 *Gentl. Mag.* Aug. 66: A conscientious propounder, which it seems that the Variolists have not had sufficient sense to acknowledge.

**Vaseline.** Add to etym. note:—The term, which was registered as a trade mark 25 June 1877 by the Chesebrough Manufacturing Co., was first applied to petroleum jelly (see def. and quotes.), later to preparations containing that article, and ultimately used upon all goods manufactured by the Company.


1907 C. DAVENPORT *The Book* 174 The white 'vellumised' pigskin has always been the most favourite material for the covering of German books.

† **Vene dic, a.** Obs. [l. med.L. Venedi (pl): see Word 26.] Wendish, Venish.

1798 T. NUGENT *Trav. Germany* II. 178 Misew in., supposed to have derived its name from the Slavonic, or Venetian word meri, signifying peace. 1790 *Downing Foster's Hist. Development, Ger. Eng.* 1. 6 Except in Bohemia and Lusatia, the Venetic language has been under the necessity of yielding to the German.

**Ventel, v.** Delete, and see Unteld v.

**Vitamin, -min** (va'tiimain, -in). [f. L. vit-a life + AMINE; named by Casimir Funk (1913), from the erroneous idea that an amino-acid is present in these substances.] One of a group of essential food-elements found in various natural food-stuffs, as vegetables, cereals, milk, etc.


**Vocalic, a.** See World 52. A book. 50 full of the vitamins of literature. *Ibid.* 5 May 58/1 The vitamins of the spirit and of true religion.

**Vocabular, sb.** Later example:—

1599 W. JACOBE in *Somser Dictionarium,* To list your names in this Vocabular.