

PREFACE TO THE SUPPLEMENT

IN the Indenture drawn up in 1879 between the Philological Society and the Delegates of the Oxford University Press it was provided that

The Delegates may also at any time, and from time to time, prepare and publish a Supplement or Supplements to the principal Dictionary, on the same terms and in the same manner and form as the said Principal Dictionary, provided that such Supplement or Supplements shall not occupy more than 2,000 pages in all, except with the consent in writing of the Society.

From the earliest days of the publication of the Dictionary this provision has been kept in view not only by members of the Dictionary staff but also by a certain number of the regular 'readers' outside who have maintained a continuous flow of contributions to the material from which the work was being compiled; moreover, communications of corrections and additions have been constantly sent in by many interested users of the published work. Consequently, when 'the Principal Dictionary' was completed in 1928, a great body of quotations had been amassed with a view to a Supplement on a grand scale, which should not only treat the new words and new meanings that had come into being during the publication of the successive sections—the dates of which range from 1 February 1884 to 19 April 1928—but should also correct and amplify the evidence for what was already in print. It was soon discovered, however, that such a Supplement, if it were to be at all a worthy and adequate addition to the main work, would demand intensive researches by experienced workers extending over many years. This could not be contemplated, and it was therefore resolved to produce a supplementary volume the scope of which would be in the main restricted to the treatment of those accessions of words and senses which had taken place during the preceding fifty years. To this limitation there were to be two principal exceptions: items of modern origin and present currency that had been either intentionally or accidentally omitted would be included, and account would be taken of earlier evidence for American uses, which Sir William Craigie was in a position to supply. Temporary or casual uses would be recognized only in so far as they marked stages in the recent history of scientific discovery, invention, or fashion, or illustrated the progress of thought, usage, or custom during the half-century under review. A few important corrections or amplifications of existing definitions have been introduced under the necessity of bringing the work into line with recent research.

The chief characteristics of the vocabulary set forth in this volume are sufficiently obvious on a cursory examination: on the technical side, it exhibits the great enlargement of the terminology of the arts and sciences—biochemistry, wireless telegraphy and telephony, mechanical transport, aerial locomotion, psycho-analysis, the cinema, to name a few outstanding subjects; on the purely linguistic side, there is the varied development of colloquial idiom and slang, to which the United States of America have made a large contribution, but in which the British dominions and dependencies also have a conspicuous share. As in the main work, there has been continually present the problem of the inclusion or omission of the more esoteric scientific terms and of the many foreign words reflecting the widened interest in the conditions and customs of remote countries, and it cannot be hoped or pretended that this problem has been solved in every instance with infallible discretion. In one respect this Supplement has gone somewhat beyond the limits of the main Dictionary, namely, in its more generous inclusion of proper names; but, even so, these have not been admitted unless they have some allusive interest or are important for some linguistic, literary, or historical reason. The arrangement of the articles is simple and straightforward and needs no explanation. It is necessary merely to state that an asterisk preceding a word in small capitals indicates an article to be found in the Supplement.

The matter comprised within the 866 pages of this Supplement, extensive though it is, represents only a restricted selection from a specially prepared basis of material from which a much larger volume might have been produced, and which itself was extracted from a collection of closely-packed slips occupying some 75 linear feet of shelving. This original mass had been sorted and made available for use by Miss I. B. Hutchen and Mr. A. Pallemarts (a Belgian refugee) before the work on the main Dictionary was concluded. A considerable part of the modern material selected from this for immediate use in the preparation of the Supplement had been contributed by such enthusiastic collectors as the late Dr. F. J. Furnivall and the late Rev. W. B. R. Wilson (of Dollar)—both of whom had specialized in newspaper and magazine literature—and the Rev. H. E. G. Rope, a former member of the Dictionary staff. It was evident, however, that many of the quotations in those invaluable collections could not be

used as first-hand evidence, and that the necessary researches by the staff in sifting and completing the data would need to be supplemented from outside. To this end dated lists of desiderata were compiled and published in *The Periodical*, the organ of the Oxford University Press. Many volunteers responded and many thousands of quotations were obtained by this means. Among the most prolific contributors have been the Rev. T. G. Phillips (Isle of Man), Dr. Max Born (Berlin), and Mr. Edvard Giese, Mag. Art. (Copenhagen); Mr. A. J. Fowler and Mrs. A. J. Jenkinson were specially engaged to read modern literature and technical works; others who have made noteworthy contributions or have maintained a continuous interest in the collection of evidence are: the Rev. J. B. Johnston, Mr. Falconer Madan, Mr. H. J. R. Murray, and Dr. E. H. Sugden, whose names appear among the earliest lists of contributors to the main work; Mr. C. W. Adams, Dr. F. A. Bather, Mr. H. Bayles, Mr. E. S. Brown, Dr. R. W. Chapman, Miss M. B. Cruickshank, the late Rev. Dr. W. Cruickshank, the Rev. F. G. Ellerton, Mr. C. A. Exley (Chicago, Ill.), Mr. David Freeman, Mr. Louis N. Feipel (Brooklyn, N.Y.), Mr. E. V. Gatenby (Fukushima, Japan), Mr. H. W. Horwill, Mr. E. W. Hulme (formerly of the Patent Office), Mr. A. Lewis, Mr. G. G. Loane, Professor W. S. Mackie (Capetown), Professor H. L. Savage (Princeton, N.J.), Dr. A. B. A. Scott, Mr. W. B. Shaw, Mr. K. Sisam, Dr. L. J. Spencer (British Museum, Natural History), Mr. E. V. Stocks (University Library, Durham), Mr. L. R. M. Strachan, Dr. A. E. H. Swaen (Amsterdam), Mr. M. Venkanah (Maharajah's College, Vizianagram, India), Mr. J. M. Watt, Miss E. G. Withycombe. By the courtesy of Professor J. H. G. Grattan, a collection of colloquialisms from the volumes of *Punch* made by a pupil, Mr. K. Foster, was placed at the disposal of the Editors, and this has proved of great service. The voluminous War collections of the late Dr. Andrew Clark have been accessible in the Bodleian Library, where, as heretofore, the editorial staff has enjoyed liberal accommodation. In some of the earlier letters valuable additions to the American material were made by Mr. Albert Matthews from his own extensive collections.

Mr. H. F. Rutter and Mrs. E. A. Coulson have read the 'first proof' and have contributed useful suggestions as well as quotations. For some of the earlier letters of the alphabet Dr. E. H. Lendon rendered valuable service in verification and research at the British Museum.

It has often been necessary to have recourse to specialists for information on technical matters, and they have invariably responded in the most generous manner. Grateful acknowledgement of assistance is due to: Sir Richard Burn, Mr. R. P. Dewhurst, Mr. G. R. Driver, the late Professor Nevill Forbes, Dr. J. K. Fotheringham, Mr. R. F. Harrod, Dr. J. G. Milne, Dr. N. V. Sidgwick, Professor F. Soddy, Sir Ernest Swinton, and Professor F. W. Thomas, of Oxford; Sir Arthur Eddington and Dr. J. Chadwick, of Cambridge; Mr. N. B. Jopson and Mr. D. Subotić, of the University of London; Professor A. Findlay, Dr. A. E. M. Geddes, Dr. J. F. Tocher, and Dr. N. T. Walker, of Aberdeen; Mr. L. G. Carr Laughton, Lord Passfield, Lord Riddell, Mr. Martin Shaw, Col. H. R. H. Southam, and Mr. M. H. Spielmann; the Librarian of the India Office, the Superintendent of the Kew Observatory, the Directors and staffs of the Natural History Museum and the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Printer to the University of Oxford, and the Secretary of the Zoological Society; the editors of *The Evening News*, *The Field*, *The Sketch*, and *The Stock Exchange Gazette*; and many business houses which have supplied particular information about proprietary terms.

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The editorial responsibility has been shared as follows: Å-K, S, and T have been allotted to Dr. C. T. Onions, L-R and U-Z to Sir William Craigie, who has also directed for the whole alphabet the assembling and treatment of the earlier, and most of the later, evidence for American usage. Dr. Onions has been assisted throughout by five members of the old Dictionary staff, Mr. Walter Worrall, Mr. W. J. Lewis, Mr. F. J. Sweatman, M.A. Oxon., Mr. J. W. Birt, and Mrs. L. F. Powell, and for longer or shorter periods by Mr. A. T. Maling, M.A. Camb., Hon. M.A. Oxon., Miss R. A. N. R. Murray, Miss E. S. Bradley, Miss E. V. V. Clark, M.A. Oxon., Mrs. A. S. C. Ross (Miss E. S. Olszewska), B.A. Leeds, Miss Evelyn A. Lee, B.A. Leeds, and Mr. J. L. N. O'Loughlin, B.A. Oxon. Sir William Craigie was assisted for a considerable period by Mr. H. J. Bayliss, in part also by Mr. G. Watson and Mr. M. M. Mathews. The letters supervised by him were prepared for the printer by Mr. J. M. Wyllie, M.A. Aberd., assisted by Mr. Bayliss, Mrs. Heseltine, and Miss Dorothy E. Marshall.