

PREFATORY NOTE.

THE portion of the Dictionary occupied with the letter E contains 9,249 Main words, 1,813 Subordinate words, 923 Special combinations, and 756 Obvious combinations: total 12,741. Of the 9,249 Main words, 2,409, or 26 per cent., are marked as obsolete, and 319, or 3½ per cent., as alien or imperfectly naturalized.

The section of the English vocabulary included in the present half-volume is remarkable for the extremely small proportion of native English words which it contains, as compared with the large number of words adopted from French (many of which are obsolete), and of derivatives from Greek and Latin. A feature of the words beginning with E that will at once attract attention is the unusual abundance of technical terms belonging to modern science. It has often been difficult to determine whether particular words of this class should be inserted or not; and probably no two critics would entirely agree in their lists of deficiencies or redundancies in this respect. While care has been taken to ensure the utmost possible accuracy in the explanation of the scientific terms given, it must be remembered that the concern of an English Dictionary is with their origin and history as words, not with the minute description of the things which they represent. So far as possible, modern words of this kind have been traced back to the authors by whom they were formed, and the inventor's own statements as to the etymology and the reason for which the name was given have, when it seemed necessary, been quoted.

Among the articles in which the current etymological statements are corrected or supplemented may be mentioned those on the words *each*, *eagre*, *Easter*, *Easterling*, *earnest*, *eddish*, *eel*, *either*, *elope*, *ember*, *embracer*², *encrinus*, *engineer*, *enker*, *enlist*, *enough*, *entellus*, *enthusiasm*, *entice*, *entropy*, *epergne*, *ephah*, *epicure*, *era*, *ermine*, *errand*, *errant*, *essera*, *esurine*, *euonymus*, *euphroe*, *even* sb., *evening*, *ever*, *excise*, *extra*. New etymological information has also been given in many of the articles on prefixes and suffixes, which are here extraordinarily numerous. Among the words of interesting history or sense-development are *economy*, *ecstasy*, *edge*, *effluvium*, *electricity*, *element*, *elocution*, *embezzle*, *emperor*, *emphasis*, *enchant*, *engage*, *engine*, *English*, *entail*, *entertain*, *enthusiasm*, *entire*, *esquire*, *essence*, *establishment*, *estate*, *esteem*, *estrangle*, *eternal*, *ether*, *euphuism*, *evangelical*, *evict*, *evidence*, *evident*, *evil*, *evolution*, *exact* adj., *excelsior*, *exception*, *exchange*, *exchequer*, *exclusive*, *execute*, *exercise*, *exhaust*, *exhibition*, *exorbitant*, *expedite*, *expense*, *expire*, *explain*, *explode*, *express*, *expression*, *exquisite*, *extend*, *exterminate*, *extenuate*, *extravagant*, *eye*.

The treatment of the pronunciation has presented some special difficulties. An unusually large proportion of the words dealt with belong to the class that are much better known in their written than in their spoken form. The difficulties connected with the orthoepy of words of this kind have already been referred to by Dr. Murray in the Preface to Vol. I; but the words beginning with E are perplexing for a reason peculiar to themselves, the initial *e* in unaccented syllables being pronounced variously in the same word, not only by different speakers, but sometimes even by the same speaker. In words beginning with unstressed *e* before two (written) consonants, like *effect*, *ellipse*, *entail*, the initial sound is in rapid or familiar pronunciation almost universally (è); but in careful or syllabic pronunciation the majority of educated speakers would retain the older sound of (e), except before *s*. On this ground it has been thought best to use the symbol (e) in the notation of words like those above quoted, and (è) in that of words like *essential*, *estate*; but it should be understood that the sound expressed by the latter symbol is in colloquial use always a permissible substitute for an initial unstressed (e). Similar uncertainties exist with regard to the unstressed initial E before a single consonant: in most of the words in which this occurs the pronunciation varies between (ɛ) and (i).

Before being taken in hand by the present editor, the material for the letter E had (in common with that for several other portions of the alphabet) been subedited in 1881-2 under Dr. Murray's direction by the late Mr. P. W. Jacob, who also revised it in 1884-5, incorporating the additional quotations accumulated in the meantime. Heartly acknowledgement is made of the important service thus rendered by Mr. Jacob; and

it is a cause of regret that this accomplished scholar did not survive to see the publication of the first of those portions of the work to the preliminary arrangement of which he so zealously devoted the latest years of his life.

Although Dr. Murray is not responsible for any of the faults that may exist in this portion of the work, he has rendered much valuable assistance in its preparation; there are in fact few pages that have not been improved by the adoption of his suggestions. The proofs have been regularly read by Mr. Fitzedward Hall, D.C.L., who has furnished many hundreds of important quotations, carrying back the history of words to an earlier date, or exemplifying senses or constructions not sufficiently illustrated; also by Mr. H. Hucks Gibbs, M.P., by the Rev. J. T. Fowler, M.A., of Durham, and by Mr. W. H. Stevenson, who have contributed many valuable annotations. Mr. John Mitchell, Dr. Murray's senior assistant, has also furnished useful remarks on the proofs.

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EMENDATIONS.

Each. The form *euych* should be deleted, with the quotation 1480-7 under (A. ϵ), in which this occurs, the correct reading being *euerych* (see EVERY).

Egg-berry. (EGG *sb.* 7, p. 58.) This is a corrupt form of HAGBERRY, and ought not to have been given here.

Egromancy. The form *egremauncey* occurs a 1649 in *Gregory's Chron.* (Camd. Soc. 1876), 183.

Eirant. This form and *Errant* (omitted in its alphabetical place) see variants of HAURIANT, q. v.

Ehndee. The word is, as stated in the text, a mistake for OF. *enheudee*; but the misreading occurs in Fr. writers, e.g. Palliot 1664.

Eve-star. The quotation 1691 under this word should be deleted. The word *evester* occurring there is adapted from the mod. Lat. *euestrum*, which seems to have been arbitrarily invented by Paracelsus, and is explained in the *Onomasticon* of Toxites (1574) to mean, amongst other things, 'the astral body [*corpus sidereum*] of man, which foretells to us either death or any other evil.'

Eylet-hole, *sb.* 1. The following earlier example has been found:—1497 *Naval Accts. Hen. VII* (1896) 334 Makyng of olyett-hooles with other necessaries for the seid sayles.