

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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SU—SUBTERRANEOUS

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS Section of the Dictionary contains 658 Main words, 32 Special Combinations explained under these, 47 obvious Combinations, 780 Compounds illustrated under the Prefix *Sub-* (many of which appear as Main words in other Dictionaries), and 336 Subordinate entries; in all 1853 words. Of the Main words 127 are marked † as obsolete, and 37 are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic' and Suppl.	'Century' Dict. and Suppl.	Here.
Words recorded	147	699	1034	1853
Words illustrated by quotations	117	273	250	1809
Number of quotations	300	380	531	7686

In the corresponding portion of Richardson the number of quotations is 419.

This section consists almost entirely of compounds formed with the Latin prefix *sub-*, which, under its altered forms *suc-*, *suf-*, *sum-*, *sup-*, *sur-*, *sus-*, enters into the composition of large stretches of the vocabulary to be dealt with in *su-*. The article on the prefix occupies nearly six pages, and is thus the longest article of the kind that has yet appeared in this Dictionary. The principal senses of *sub-*, all arising out of the notion 'under' (or 'from under'), were fully developed and had an extensive range in classical Latin itself. They are abundantly represented in English not only by borrowings made directly from Latin or through the medium of French, but also by new formations. It is worthy of remark that these senses were common to the cognate Greek and Sanscrit forms of the prefix, so that it may be inferred that they existed also in the prehistoric parent language. In addition to them, various subordinate uses were evolved in later times, especially in the modern-Latin terminology of the arts and sciences. It is the exemplification of these that contributes largely to the bulk of the article *Sub-*. The number of the less important compounds, which have been grouped and illustrated under the prefix, is so great that it has been possible to find space for only a few cross-references to them in their alphabetical places.

The most interesting and difficult sets of words in respect of their sense-history consist of *subject*, *sublime*, *subscribe*, *subsist*, and *substance*, with their derivatives. The only serious etymological difficulty is that of *subdue*, concerning which the available evidence is insufficient to furnish any certain conclusion.

The proportion of technical words and meanings of importance is unusually high in this portion of the vocabulary. In logic, philosophy, and metaphysics we have *subaltern*, *subconscious*, *subcontrary*, *subject*, *subjective*, *sublate*, *sublation*, *subliminal*, *substance*, *substratum*, *subsume*, *subsumption*; in theology *sublapsarian*, *subordinationism*, *subsistence* (= any of the Persons of the Trinity), *substance*, *substitution*; in the several departments of law *subfeud*, *subinfeudation*, *subornation*, *subpæna*, *subreption*, *subrogation*, *substantial*, *substantive*; in grammar *subaudition*, *subject*, *subjective*, *subjunctive*, *subordinate*, *substantive*; in military and naval affairs *subaltern*, *subdivision*, *sublieutenant*, *submarine*, *subsection*, *subsistence*, *substitute*; in music *subdominant*, *submediant*, *suboctave*, *subsemitone*. Terms of medical science, chemistry, zoology, and botany—many of them in constant use—are very numerous.

From Oriental sources come *subah*, *subahdar*, *subashi*, *subeth*, *subjee*.