

P R E F A C E T O S U — S Z.

THIS the concluding portion of the letter S comprises 4935 Main words, 960 Combinations explained under these, and 2417 Subordinate entries; in all 8312. The Obvious Combinations, illustrated by quotations but not requiring specific definition, number 1094 more, making a total of 9406. Of the Main words, 1133 are marked † as obsolete, and 208 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.*

The Germanic element in this portion of the English vocabulary amounts to somewhat less than a quarter. It includes *such, suck, summer* (the season), *sun, sunder, sundry, sup* (to sip), together with all but a few of the words with initial *sw*, which occupy about two-thirds of the whole space covered by the Germanic element. Among the more important *sw*-words belonging to the ordinary written and spoken language are *swaddle, swain, swallow, swamp, swarm, swarthy, swath, swathe, sway, swear, sweat, sweep, sweet, swell, swelter, swerve, swift, swill, swim, swindle, swine, swing, swinge, swirl, switch, swoon, swoop, sword*; but there are many now obsolete, dialectal, technical, or otherwise restricted in use, which equal or surpass these in lexicographical interest or difficulty: such are the six words *swab*, the seven nouns *swad*, the three nouns *swale, swalper, swanimote*, the five words *swarf*, the seven words *swarth, swarve*, the seven words *swash*, the three nouns *swash* and *swatch, swats, sweal, sweb, sweddle, sweek, sweer, swelt, swerk, sweven*, the six words *swig, swilk, swimble, swime, swingle, swipe, swipper, swire, swith, swithe, swithen, swither, swive, swote, swound, swow*.

In the Latin and Greek element of the vocabulary the most striking feature is the number and importance of the prefixes that have required more or less lengthy treatment; these are *sub-* (with its variants *su-, suc-, suf-, sum-, sup-, sur-, sus-*), *super-, supra-, sur-, syn-* (with its variants *sy-, syl-, sym-, sys-*). The great majority of the words from Latin, Greek, and French are compounds of one or other of these prefixes, and the list of them includes many of common literary and colloquial currency, and many of considerable rank in the terminology of the arts and the sciences.

India has supplied an unusually large proportion of words: *subah, subahdar, subashi, subjee, sudder, Sudra, sundri, sungar, sunn, sunnud, sumyasee, supari, surnai, surpeach, surwan, susu, sutra, suttee, suttoo, swadeshi, swami, swastika*.

A few articles may be singled out as being especially conspicuous for their etymological interest: *subdue, sugar* and *sugar-candy, surd* (in mathematics), *surly, sway, swerve, swindle, sycophant, syllabus, syphilis*, and the Paracelsian *sylph* and *synovia*. Special interest attaches to the facts of the history of *syllabus*.

The original collection of material for *Su—Sz* was subedited by Mr. P. W. Jacob in 1883; since then a large body of additional quotations had been amassed before the regular staff started work upon it at the beginning of 1914. The proofs have been read by the Misses Edith and E. P. Thompson, Lansdown, Bath, Mr. G. F. Friedrichsen, M. A. (a former member of the late Sir James Murray's staff), and the Rev. Canon J. T. Fowler; their annotations have contributed in many instances to the accuracy or completeness of the treatment. Constant assistance in verification at the British Museum has been given by Mr. W. W. Jenkinson, and on several occasions Mr. E. J. Thomas, of the University Library, Cambridge, a former member of the Dictionary staff, has rendered similar service.

On many technical points recourse has been had to experts, who have generously placed their knowledge and their time at the service of the Dictionary. Among these the following have furnished special information: the late Prof. A. S. Napier, Mr. W. H. Stevenson, and Mr. K. Sisam, on the early history of some native words; Prof. D. S. Margoliouth and Dr. A. E. Cowley on questions of Semitic etymology; Dr. James Morison on the languages and lore of India; Mr. C. C. J. Webb on several philosophical terms; the

* The following figures show the comparative scale of this work and some other Dictionaries:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Diet.	Here.
Words recorded	841	3775	5099	9406
Words illustrated by quotations	711	1483	1611	8118
Number of quotations	2254	2151	3732	47,102

In the corresponding portion of Richardson's Dictionary the number of quotations is 2446.

late Rev. Dr. H. M. Bannister, the Rev. Fr. Frere, the Rev. Dr. B. J. Kidd, on the language of the Church; Prof. E. B. Elliott, Mr. A. E. Jolliffe, and Mr. C. Leudesdorf, on mathematical terms; and Dr. F. D. Chattaway on chemical words.

The progress of this portion of the Dictionary has been retarded by the withdrawal in succession of several members of the staff, and, in the second half of the year 1918, of the editor, for war service of different kinds. The assistants to whom has fallen the chief share in the preparation of *Su—Sz* are Mr. A. T. Maling, M.A., and Mr. F. J. Sweatman, M.A., and the Misses Elsie M. R. and Rosfrith N. R. Murray, all members of the late Sir James Murray's staff. Others who were engaged upon it for longer or shorter periods are Mr. J. W. Birt, Mr. P. T. J. Dudley, Mr. W. J. Fortune, Mr. H. R. Simpson, Mr. F. A. Yockney, and the late Mr. James Dallas.

C. T. ONIONS.

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The statistics for the whole of the letter S, which extends to 2408 pages (the first 800 of which are in Volume VIII), are for convenience given here:—

Main words.	Subordinate words.	Special Combinations.	Obvious Combinations.	Total No. of Words.	No. of Quotations.
27,929	10,141	7932	11,426	57,428	298,006

The 27,929 Main words are distinguished approximately as follows:

Current.	Obsolete.	Alien.	Total.
21,362	5487	1080	27,929

The comparative scale of this work and of certain other Dictionaries is shown as follows:

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Here.
Words recorded	4344	22,577	28,342	57,428
Words illustrated by quotations	3587	7688	8706	47,837
Number of illustrative quotations	14,515	12,146	24,100	298,006

In the corresponding portion of Richardson's Dictionary the number of quotations is 12,516.