

REVIEWS - OF - NEW - BOOKS

THE NEW STANDARD DICTIONARY *

Reviewed for THE LITERARY DIGEST by
ELMER ELLSWORTH BROWN

A DICTIONARY is a democratic institution, if it consult the convenience of many users, who are subject to a great variety of limitation as regards time and acquired experience and even technical education; but its democracy will not excuse any remissness as regards the accuracy of the information which it undertakes to convey.

That it is a book for the people, in this sense, is one of the first impressions one gains of the Standard Dictionary, and it will be regarded from that standpoint in the present review.

To pass at once to a typical instance, we note the abandonment of the principle of historic sequence in the arrangement of the several meanings of a given word. The "common, present-day meaning" is given first and obsolete meanings left to the last. There are many of us who find in this innovation an affront to one of our scholastic prejudices. The long hours spent in boyhood with our Autenrieth, and for some of us the prolonged effort a little later to ground our classes in the original meanings of the words of Vergil and Horace, as recorded in a sizable volume attributed to one Andrews—such experiences as these have prepared us for protest against the new arrangement. Yet, when we come to think of it, there is much to be said for the change. It is doubtless only a small minority of dictionary-users to whom the historic succession of meanings is of significance, and only a minority of this minority take account of that succession habitually in their daily use of such a volume. The arrangement here adopted probably represents some saving of time, enough saving to be worth while. Besides, a historical arrangement is liable to be very uncertain and at times misleading, especially after the first number of any given series; and so far as the etymology of the words is concerned, the present volume deals with the matter concisely and clearly, after the definitions instead of before them. So the general arrangement here is, after all, roughly historical, running backward from the present to the past, in place of the traditional sequence from the origins to the present usage.

Another popular characteristic of this work is the employment of all manner of devices for conveying information vividly to all manner of readers. The formal definitions of individual words are, of

course, fundamental. But these are supplemented, where possible, with an astonishing multiplicity of picture illustrations run into the text, clear, simple illustrations that illustrate. There are numerous full-page groups of illustrations, and these depart freely from traditional standards, in the endeavor to impart information for which there may be considerable demand. The pages devoted to systems and apparatus for fighting fire in cities offer a conspicuous example, as do those representing various phases of the modern police and postal services. Modern steel construction is illustrated by a striking view of the Woolworth Building, New York, alongside of a section of the Metropolitan Tower, together with numerous cuts representing details of such construction. Dr. George F. Kunz's unlimited fund of information regarding precious stones and jewels has been drawn on freely, the result being presented in a remarkable plate representing the most famous diamonds in the world, and in a colored plate of other representative gems.

Altogether, there are more than fifty of these full-page plates and illustrations. Included in the number are those relating to aeronautics and aviation; types of cattle, horses, sheep, dogs, and fowl; motor-vehicles, railroad equipment, passenger-steamships and ships of war, telegraphs and telephones (both the wiry and the wireless variety), forms of bacteria, and types of mankind. There is no occasion to enumerate all of them. But why should not even the dispassionate reviewer indulge the sentimental reflection that, even in these days of pictures innumerable, there will be youthful enthusiasts for this branch or that of the world of nature and the arts, who will pore over these plates and the text which accompanies them, and will get from them some of the real stuff of their interest in life? There is certainly much of definite and useful information which the same plates and their accompaniments will furnish to more mature and experienced students.

Another device that is freely employed is that of concentrating in tabular form considerable masses of information regarding topics sufficiently unified to admit of such treatment. As examples, taken almost at random, may be mentioned the tables of national legislatures; of coins and moneys of account; of varieties of apples, plums, and other cultivated fruits and vegetables; of varieties of explosives, grasses, cheeses, gums, soaps, wines. There are not far from four hundred, in all, of these comprehensive groups and tables, and they constitute a valuable feature of the work.

Some of the most interesting and useful of the tables are joined with full-page illustrations, such as have been mentioned. As examples, may be named the ethnological plates and tables, supplemented by tables, in their appropriate places, of African and American-Indian tribes, as

well as by text regarding philological and anthropological classifications; the elaborately analyzed chart of hand-made laces, with its page of dainty illustrations; the comprehensive color charts (under the word *spectrum*), supplemented by such extensive tables as those of the varieties of black, blue, brown, green, lake, orange, red, violet, white, yellow, and of the classes of dyes.

Some of these are instances in which the volume wanders freely afield from the narrower lines of word-study into whatever of related information may be sought by the users of a dictionary. There are other instances in which, quite apart from any pictorial illustration, there is tabular matter joined with historical and analytical notes which give, in extremely compact form, a really encyclopedic treatment of the subject in hand. As notable examples of such treatment, reference may be made to the presentation of physical measurements, under the entry *unit*, and, together with this, the comprehensive tables of *weights* and *measures*, under these respective word-entries; to the matter under *steam*, *steam-engine*, and *locomotive*; as also to the less systematic and imposing but very useful matter entered under the words *case*, *plow*, *degree*, *steel*.

But within the definite domain of words and the use of words there is presented a really remarkable development of such information as men and women in all walks of life have need of for every-day speech and reading and writing. Here we find set forth the prepositions which appropriately accompany different words in their different meanings. Here are not only extensive comparisons of synonyms, but numerous antonyms are also presented. Here are many lists of words connected with the name of some occupation or craft, or some form of construction or science. Interesting examples may be found under the words *architecture* and *building*, with all manner of supplements under such entries as *carpentry*, *molding*, *screw*, *arch*, *bond*, *brick*, and *plumbing*. Other examples equally suggestive may be found under the words *wire*, *golf*, *blacksmith*, *automobile*, *chess*, *music*, *agriculture*, *mining*. Here is a proper economy of space in the listing of many words, a good part of them self-explanatory, and so requiring only such listing, under a common prefix, as *un-*, *semi-*, *arch-*, or *anti-*. Somewhat similarly, long lists of brief definitions are in some cases condensed under the entry of a common initial syllable which is not in the nature of an ordinary prefix; as we find, near together, the groups of the Greek derivatives in *chlor-*, *chloro-*, *chol-*, *chondr-*, *chromo-*, *chrono-*, and *chryso-*. In general, also, there is a very convenient and satisfactory grouping, under the appropriate words, of the related compounds and phrases.

These various devices of presentation are not mentioned here as, all of them, new things under the sun. That goes without saying. But they are so extensively

* New Standard Dictionary of the English Language, upon original plans designed to give, in complete and accurate statement, in the light of the most recent advances in knowledge, in the readiest forms for popular use, the orthography, pronunciation, meaning, and etymology of all the words, and the meaning of idiomatic phrases, in the speech and literature of the English-speaking peoples, together with proper names of all kinds, the whole arranged in one alphabetical order. Prepared by more than 380 specialists and other scholars under the supervision of Isaac K. Funk, D.D., LL.D., editor-in-chief; Calvin Thomas, LL.D., consulting editor; Frank H. Vizetelly, Litt.D., LL.D., managing editor. Also a Standard History of the World, complete in one volume. Large quarto. Illustrated with many full-page plates in color and in black and white, and also textual figures. New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

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Kellogg's TOASTED CORN FLAKES
THE ORIGINAL HAS THIS SIGNATURE
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KELLOGG TOASTED CORN FLAKES
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"—we want more KELLOGG'S! Since they came in that new WAXTITE package, daddy and mother eat two bowls a-piece every morning an' Bettie 'n I aren't getting what we used to. An' KELLOGG'S tastes better 'n ever now—um-m-m!—so crisp. If this outrage keeps up we'll write to

W.K. Kellogg

employed and organized in this work as to earn for it real distinction as a dictionary convenient in use and of very wide usefulness.

The discussion of the various uses of a word in its different meanings and relationships are in some instances particularly instructive. And this treatment is carried to the length of conveying warnings against common errors of speech, of giving rules for the formation of possessives and plurals, and presenting a variety of information regarding grammatical and rhetorical construction. If some of this should be thought unnecessary to readers of ordinary education, the objection is one that quickly melts away. This is information of a kind that is widely needed. And the supply of such information in a dictionary is not merely an immediately practical service. The relationships of a word are as important as its etymology and its definitions. What we have here set forth is a kind of ecology of language, a thing nearly if not quite as significant as the anatomy and physiology of language.

There are various other devices of arrangement which conduce to convenience, but need not be enumerated here. One, however, calls for special mention, and it appears to be a new thing in works of this kind, namely, the entering of all word-lists under a single alphabet. In this case the fact that a proper noun is proper does not exclude it from the body of the work; and real personages, or even mere persons, living or dead, if they be named at all, are no longer consigned to a side-show, but are admitted to the main tent along with all the gods of all the mythologies. There are *pros* and *cons* regarding this innovation, but, personally, I find that I like it. There are doubtless good logical reasons for still putting off the glossary of foreign words in a place by itself, but so far as mere convenience of reference is concerned there would seem to be no reason why these immigrants into our language might not be domiciled among our citizen-words.

We have been considering thus far a kind of democratic character in the work as regards devices of arrangement and varieties of information imparted.

The ultimate test of any work of reference, however, as has been noted above, must be the accuracy of the information it conveys. One hundred per cent. of accuracy can not be demanded, for it is never attained and probably never can be attained in a work of such dimensions. But a very high percentage is demanded, and justly so; a proportion so high that the lapses shall be inconspicuous if not practically negligible.

The best assurance of the prevalent accuracy of the New Standard is the high character of the scholarship employed upon the work in its several fields of information. Even a cursory examination of the composition of the editorial board, including some three hundred members, reveals the great care which has been exercised in the organization of this undertaking. Names long familiar in the world of science and letters start out at one from every column, and other names known to but comparatively few beyond the circle of their respective specialties are equally an assurance of thorough workmanship. Taking account only of those engaged upon the present edition, one is arrested at first glance by such names as those of Professors

Dowden, Gayley, Schelling, Francis H. Stoddard, and Calvin Thomas, of Sir James Crichton-Browne, of Professors A. D. F. Hamlin and C. L. Bristol, of Doctors Harvey W. Wiley, Leland O. Howard, and Charles E. Munroe, of Samuel Macauley Jackson, of Lord Avebury and Douglas Hyde and Henry Gannett and George Otis Smith, of Professor Mahaffy and Cyrus Adler and Frank Wigglesworth Clarke, of Judge Gary and Dr. George T. Stevens and Dean C. Worcester, of Henry van Dyke and Morris Hillquit and Sir David Bruce; not to mention many others as eminent or as competent as these. It is evident, too, that the connection of such authorities with the work is not merely nominal, a fact which goes far to account for the wide use of this democratic work in technical and university circles.

From quite another point of view, it is interesting to see how many departments of our Federal Government have been drawn upon for expert guidance. The advance of scientific work at the National Capital has, indeed, been painfully slow, but it has also been inevitable and irresistible. There is now a fairly large group of scientific bureaus and laboratories at Washington in which the best work in this country is done, or work abreast of the best, in the branches of science with which they have to do. The stamp of a government office upon work of a scientific character has not always, in the history of this country, been an assurance of standard quality; but the change for the better in this respect is already far advanced in our States and municipalities as well as in our national life. The editors of the Dictionary before us have done well to draw so largely on the departments of our Federal Government.

The difficulty of keeping all subjects equally advanced in successive editions of such a work as this is undoubtedly great. It is illustrated in the present instance by one subject in which the present reviewer is particularly interested, namely, in pedagogy, with the branches of learning most closely related thereto.

Possibly specialists in various fields could point to deficiencies from the point of view of their several subjects, as is the case with any extensive work of reference. But the conviction abides, after due allowance for all such adverse judgment has been made, that we have here a valuable apparatus of public education and enlightenment, a work for the use of scholars in many fields, and notably a reference-book for the widest popular use, which will be found surprising and well-nigh inexhaustible in the wealth of information which it has to offer.

The necessary limitations of space compel the omission in this review of certain topics which are vital to the making of a dictionary. Among the most obvious of these are those relating to the treatment of the pronunciation of words and the judgment exercised regarding the inclusion of dialectic forms and current colloquialisms in both the forms of words and phrases and the meanings attached thereto. While the New Standard has taken decided ground of its own in these matters, and such as must inevitably call forth conflicting opinions, the present reviewer does not find that, on the whole, an extended survey of these topics would lead him to any fundamental modification of the estimate of the work as a whole which has been indicated above.

OTHER BOOKS WORTH WHILE

Fraser, John Foster. The Amazing Argentine. Pp. 291, illustrated. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company. \$1.50 net.

This volume should go far to dissipate any idea that there is not much of any consequence south of the Rio Grande besides the Panama Canal. In the story of his journeyings over the length and breadth of this enormous country—twice the size of Mexico—Mr. Fraser paints us a picture of a progressive people, and a country that is rapidly assuming a position as the foremost producer of the world's meat-supply. Stretching from the Atlantic to the Andes Mountains and from north of the Tropic of Capricorn to the Straits of Magellan, it supports 30,000,000 cattle, over 80,000,000 sheep, and 8,000,000 horses. The railroads, in which the British have invested £300,000,000, are among the best equipped in the world, and carry annually 40,000,000 tons of freight, with approximate receipts of £25,000,000. The export trade is advancing by leaps and bounds, and in 1912 the value of wool exports was £50,000,000, live-stock products £35,000,000, and agricultural produce £53,000,000; while the extent of the frozen-meat business may be gaged from the fact that £11,000,000 is invested in freezing-houses. The book is a distinct help to Americans in showing them a little more of the great country that is opening up to their enterprise.

Van Dyck, John C. New Guides to Old Masters. 16mo, 12 vols., cloth. I. London, \$1; II. Paris, \$0.75; III. Amsterdam, The Hague, Haarlem, \$0.75; IV. Brussels, Antwerp, \$0.75; V. Munich, Frankfurt, Cassel, \$1; VI. Berlin, Dresden, \$1; VII. Vienna, Budapest, \$1; VIII. St. Petersburg (in press); IX. Venice, Milan (in press); X. Florence (in press); XI. Rome (in press); XII. Madrid (in press). 1914. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

For those of inquiring mind, but of limited time in European art-galleries, this series will be found most useful, providing one has a completely blank mind upon entering and is in no mood to argue. Mr. Van Dyck's idea is to "deal with pictures from the painter's point of view, rather than that of the ecclesiastic, the archeologist, or the literary romancer . . . that shall have a critical basis for discrimination between the good and the bad." His judgments are concisely and cleverly expressed, and ought to be of service to the traveling public as well as to the art student. Only the best pictures among the old masters in each gallery are chosen for comment. They are discussed in alphabetical order, and the books are to be used in connection with the regular guide-books. The first of the series, London—the National Gallery—contains an introduction giving a brief sketch of such things as methods of painting and forgeries, and is expressed in a way to meet the requirements of the beginner.

Bruce, H. Addington. Adventurings in the Psychical. 12mo, pp. 318. New York: Little, Brown & Co. \$1.35.

The skill with which Mr. Bruce narrates strange things and leaves the reader to make his own solution of the problems they present is really admirable. The tact with which he handles various themes of the abnormal is praiseworthy. He comes down to grim fact when he bursts many a bubble by giving the scientific explanation of some among such phenomena. The subjects dealt with as given in the index must pique the curiosity and rouse the interest of the most blasé reader of recent books. We quote them as follows: Ghosts and Their Meanings; Why I Believe in Telepathy;



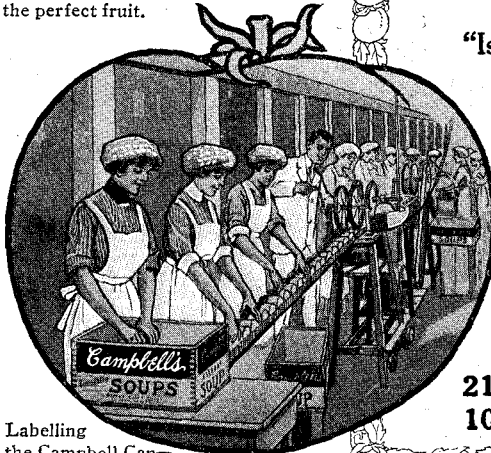
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Labelling the Campbell Can—One Machine labels 17,500 cans in one hour.

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(As told by himself)

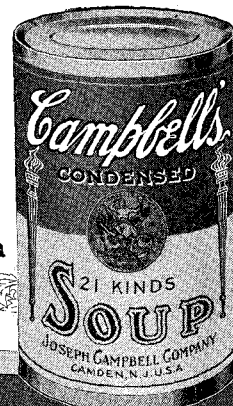
"MY ancestors were the aristocracy of their race—developed through years of cross-breeding in the Experiment-Station of the Campbell farms.

"The parent-vine on which I grew was nurtured and cultivated with unceasing care until I with my brother-tomatoes arrived at complete maturity—red-ripe, juicy and of a most enticing flavor.

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