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REV. A. A. CHERRIER,

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

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SATURDAY DEC. 5, 1903.

Calendar for Next Week.

DECEMBER.

- 6—Second Sunday in Advent.
- 7—Monday—St. Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor, Vigil.
- 8—Tuesday—The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. Holyday of obligation. First class feast with octave.
- 9—Wednesday—Of the Octave. Fast Day.
- 10—Thursday—The Translation of the Holy House of Loreto.
- 11—Friday—St. Damasus, Pope. Fast Day.
- 12—Saturday—Of the Octave.

THE NEW STANDARD.

Since Funk & Wagnall's "Standard Dictionary" made its first appearance some ten years ago and leaped at a bound into the first place among English dictionaries, great efforts have been made in various quarters to rival it. The Encyclopaedic Dictionary, which in its day, some twenty years ago, was the best of its kind, and is still very useful, has been recently advertised as a new and up-to-date edition; but when some unskilled buyer had secured the new edition at an astonishingly moderate figure, he was sure to be undeceived by the first well-informed friend pointing out that there was nothing new in the body of the dictionary and that the apparent newness was due entirely to the altered title page, "Imperial Dictionary and Cyclopaedia," contradicted in the very first line of the preface, which begins with "The Encyclopaedic Dictionary," etc., and to the gorgeous new colored plates inserted here and there with no direct reference to the contents of the dictionary. A more serious and honest effort was made to rejuvenate the "Century" (1903 edition) and Webster's "International," with supplement (1901), by the addition of really new matter. But to connoisseurs in lexicography the news that the Funk & Wagnall's Company were preparing a new edition of their undoubtedly standard work came as a harbinger of literary and scientific satisfaction. Will the 20th century subscription edition of the "Standard Dictionary of the English Language," just published and now before us, disappoint this hope?

Let us first sketch what the new volume contains, we say volume, because our experience of the previous edition led us to prefer the single volume-form. The dictionary proper, up to page 2100, remains the same, although the type and engravings have been made new. Then come 87 pages of "Addenda," inserted between the Dictionary proper and the Appendix. This is the most interesting feature of the new edition, and we shall refer to it in detail presently. The Appendix, which follows, has been, in several of its parts, systematically revised and reset. It has been printed from new type and has been brought down to date. For instance no less than ten pages have been added to the "Proper Names," not as a supplement, but by recasting from the very second line onward. Thus, between the first and the second proper names of the old edition one new name has been inserted, between the third and the

fourth two new names appear, and so on to the end. Among the new names are those of Santos Dumont, the aeronaut, Edouard Drumont of the Libre Parole, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Marconi.

No change has been made in the "Foreign Words," "Faulty Diction," "Disputed Spellings and Pronunciations," nor in the "Abbreviations and Contractions," the "Arbitrary Signs and Symbols," and the "Symbolic Flowers and Gems." But 143 pages of new matter have been added. There are seven pages on the formation of the plural of Nouns, 14 pages of a Pronouncing Vocabulary of Bible Proper Names, wherein the Douay version is duly represented, a Standard Atlas of the World, wherein Manitoba is about three quarters of an inch square in the centre of a map of British North America, whereas the Philippine Islands have a whole page to themselves, and each of the United States likewise. This Atlas takes up 91 pages, and is very clear and modern. Then come 28 pages of the Standard Cyclopaedia, remarkably condensed and accurate. Finally, three pages are devoted to a Universal Calendar for every year of the Christian Era, which is extremely convenient for finding, in a few moments, the day of the week on which any date falls. Thus, out of 2,581 pages, less than 400 are absolutely new. If the "Addenda," "Proper Names," and the 143 pages at the end had been printed as a separate supplement, those who already possess the Standard Dictionary need not pay \$18—the lowest price—for this new edition; a couple of dollars would surely cover the cost of this supplement.

However, to be perfectly fair, we must add that such a supplement would not include the 4 new colored plates inserted in the dictionary proper, which are truly marvels of chromolithography. The first contains 93 varieties of European and American Butterflies and Moths, reproduced on a uniform scale of one-half the natural size. The second, entitled the "Uniforms of the Armies of the six great powers of Europe," is lithographed in ten colors from the most recent data available, and embraces the uniforms worn by the different regiments of Great Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, France, and Italy. The third plate represents the uniforms of the army of the United States. A key to each of these three plates is given on the back thereof. The fourth plate, entitled "Radial Sections of Typical Words," represents twenty examples of the common words of Europe and America. These were produced from slices of live woods cut from one-sixtieth to one hundred-and-sixtieth of an inch in thickness, and show every line and fibre. Assuredly if the main object of a dictionary were the beauty and perfection of its plates, the new Standard more than sustains the unparalleled excellence of the old in this respect; but we cannot help feeling that, on the whole, the Funk & Wagnall's Company have cleverly over-reached the public by prospectuses so worded as to produce the impression that the dictionary had been entirely recast, whereas the cold truth is, that the only valuable dictionary features are the "Addenda," the "Bible Proper Names," and the "Proper Names," i. e., about 250 pages. The Atlas is on too small a scale, the Cyclopaedia altogether too ill-put.

Eight years' constant use of the "Standard," while confirming us in our conviction that no other dictionary is equal to it for practical purposes, has also borne in upon us what is lacking in its structure. It reveals an inadequate knowledge of the usages of the best English society. The editors of the Standard are thoroughly at home in all the colloquialisms and slang of both hemispheres, but, especially in the matter of pronunciation, they are not sufficiently acquainted with the usage of educated England, which in spite of Prof. Lounsbury's recent assertion that there is no standard of English pronunciation, is practically the court of last appeal in good society everywhere. An educated English gentleman's pronunciation will pass muster all over the world and be silently admired everywhere, while the peculiarities of American, even of Boston, pronunciation are a

distinct drawback to a public speaker visiting any part of the British Empire. Take, for instance, the word "Centenary." About this time last year we pointed out in these columns the Standard's ignorance of English usage with regard to this word, and, as the editors of the dictionary took no notice of our article thereon, sent to them, for no mention of this word is to be found in the "Addenda," we repeat what we then said. The upper classes in England pronounce this word with the accent on the second syllable, as if it were "Centenary," which is more in accordance with the Latin original. When Lord Roseberry presided at a great meeting to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of shorthand in 1887 he pronounced the word in this way, to the great astonishment of Mr. afterwards Sir Isaac Pitman, whose knowledge of words was mainly bookish. Few dictionaries had then taken note of this growing usage; all, except the Encyclopaedic, which gives three pronunciations: (1) "centenary" (2) "centenary," (with the accent on the first) and (3) "centenary" (with the accent on the second, but with "e" short), give but one pronunciation, with the accent on the first syllable; but we can testify, from a five years' residence in England, that Lord Roseberry's way is the common usage of the upper classes in the mother country. There are other divergences of English usages of which the Standard "Disputed Pronunciations" department, elaborate and admirable as it is, takes no account. For example, Stormonth, voicing a common English usage, pronounces "miscellany" with the accent on the second syllable; both Stormonth and the Encyclopaedic give the long "i" in "fidelity," while all the American dictionaries make the "i" short and say not a word of the contrary English usage. The words singled out as "Disputed" seem to have been chosen beforehand from the existing American dictionaries, such as Webster, Worcester and the Century. What is needed to make the Standard a world-wide standard, is that some skilled orthoepist residing in England should be charged with a thorough revision of all the non-scientific words in the language from the point of view of good usage. Such a one would discover a number of "Disputed Pronunciations," not to be found in the Standard, and yet far more common than the recondite scientific words that make up so large a proportion of the present list.

Now for the "Addenda." Before showing the good points of this valuable department we wish to note a couple of words that we expected to find and do not. "Upstanding" in the Australian sense of "well set up," as in the phrase "a fine, upstanding fellow," is one; it appears only, and then merely in the primitive form, "upstand," in a list of permissible words with the prefix "up," without any hint as to its meaning. There are new uses of "yellow" in the "Addenda," but nowhere is there a hint of the sense given to that word within the past few years in the expression, "Yellow Journalism." Nor is there any acknowledgment of that recent phrase "it is up to you to," etc., which has become so common as to have almost ceased to be slang. Surely, such expressions are more deserving of recognition than a host of Cuban, Philippine and South African words that figure in the "Addenda."

It is a curious commentary on the ephemeral nature of some fads that ping-pong should have made its way into the Standard Dictionary in all the bravery of an engraving representing a lady and gentleman at play, just when the game has ceased to be fashionable.

One of the finest things in this supplement is the plate on Wireless Telegraphy which explains satisfactorily all the details of the mechanism. The skiagraphs in the Roentgen Ray plate are exceptionally illustrative.

In addition to these features recent experiments and research are answerable for the wealth of new terms added in this edition, especially in the departments of Aeronautics, Electricity, Engineering, Games and Sports, Literature, Locomotion, Natural Science, Radiography and Philosophy.

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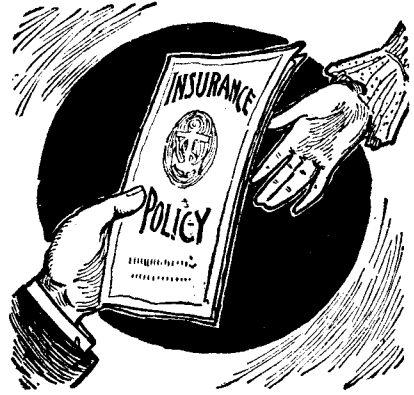
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