

tenth century Anglo-Saxon work, begins with farmers' tools all in a heap; then come ecclesiastical matters, then political, then diseases, then wild beasts, insects, vessels, a room and its contents, and so on. Nothing could be done with the materials of the Oxford Dictionary, or the Century, or Standard, on any such plan. Dictionaries are sometimes arranged according to a philological system. Ettmüller's Anglo-Saxon Dictionary has the words classified under their roots, and the roots and words arranged according to the scientific order of the sounds. The beginner has to master this order of sounds, and then to guess under what root his word belongs—or rather under what root Ettmüller thinks it belongs. He has, in fact, to learn the language to its depths before he can use the dictionary.

Roget's arrangement is primarily one of nameable objects. "It is impossible we should thoroughly understand the nature of the signs unless we first properly consider and arrange the things signified," is his motto, taken from Horne Tooke's "Diversions of Purley." He classifies nameables, after the manner of the English psychologists, into matter, mind (intellect, volition, affections), space and abstract relations, and divides and subdivides these until he makes out an even thousand divisions, and into these he puts all the words. In order to find any word it was necessary to think out in which subdivision its idea belongs. This is worse than Ettmüller. It was necessary to add a verbal index, alphabetically arranged, with references to the groups by number. It is not easy, indeed, to find a word after you know the number of its group, for the group may contain hundreds of words in no manageable order.

The machinery of a serviceable dictionary is found in the alphabet. The invention of alphabetic writing has been often pronounced the most important ever made. It is not the least of its benefits to mankind that it affords the means of making knowledge accessible. Every one knows the letters of the alphabet. If all thoughts are arranged under their words, and the words arranged in alphabetic order, any one can find off-hand any of the million facts and thoughts which are stored in the dictionary. The use of the simple alphabetic order is almost as important an invention as the representation of words by single signs of their elementary sounds.

The material of this Thesaurus has been brought to alphabetic order. Our publisher suggested that it be called a THESAURUS DICTIONARY, believing that the word "Thesaurus" will easily assume the meaning of groups, and "Dictionary" that of alphabetic arrangement.

In using the THESAURUS DICTIONARY, look up any word connected with your subject in its alphabetic place in the vocabulary list in larger black type, exactly as in our common dictionary. Anger, for example, is found thus on page 45. It is there briefly defined as a violent passion, and two groups to which it belongs are then mentioned in small capitals, EXCITABILITY-INEXCITABILITY and FAVORITE-ANGER. To study the first group turn to EXCITABILITY-INEXCITABILITY in its alphabetical place in the general vocabulary, page 372. There, under this heading, are two parallel columns, the left-hand for EXCITABILITY, the right for INEXCITABILITY, each running on for a couple of pages and bringing