parcel of every day speech. But even the obsolete and archaic phrases have influenced the English speech pattern, and occasionally suggested analogical formations, and thus permanently affected the language.

As to the nature of the loans, many of them are in the domains of war (17) and chivalry (11), which are not always easy to separate during this period, 9 are in the field of law, 3 are connected with the church, 2 relate to courtly life and 3 to literature or rather writing in general. The remaining 23 phrases are of a more general nature and often serve relational and functional purposes, though we should add that many of them are found in contexts belonging to one of the domains mentioned before. But in general it may be said that they reflect the influence of French prose style on English. Workman has pointed that French prose style, which under the influence of Latin patterns, matured at a much earlier time than English prose, beneficently affected the latter in the course of the 15th century. It will be seen here that this influence began even long before.

It will have been seen that in the case of phrases consisting wholly of Germanic words, like *by sea and by land*, *in witness of*, it is not always easy and at times quite impossible to determine whether such a phrase represents a natural development from a similar Old English phrase, or whether it was actually taken over from French. The safest view to take is perhaps to say that the native phrase was remodelled on the French one or given a new lease of life by it. As we said in the introductory remarks, if the content-words (as apart from mere form-words) in a phrase are all Romance, it may safely be assumed the phrase was taken over from French. Yet a case like *the common people* shows that this process was not always a straightforward and direct one. The infiltration took place in two stages, in the first stage part of the phrase was translated, in the second the phrase was not translated into Germanic terms at all. Does this denote a weakening of the whole Germanic character of the language? Our data are not sufficient to draw so general a conclusion, but it must be obvious that with every new Romance term introduced, the natural resistance to further introductions was weakened. That this is not a cause for regret I pointed out elsewhere^{2a}). English has benefited immensely in richness and universality, in suppleness and adaptability by the loans in vocabulary, style and syntax both from Latin and French.

POSTSCRIPT.

After this article had been written, I had an opportunity to consult a work which I could not obtain in Holland, and a few articles criticising it. The work is F. H. Sykes, *French Elements in Middle English* (Oxford, 1899) and the articles are by Dr. A. Trampe Bødtker, *Bear and Take in Middle English Phrases*, *Critical Notes*, Christiania, 1905 (Videnskabs-Selskabets Skrifter, II, Hist.-Filos. Klasse, 1905, No. 6) and by W. Owen Sypherd, *Old French Influence on Middle English Phraseology* (*Modern Philology*, V, 1907—8). Though the criticism of Sykes' work was justified in some points, I still think that in the main he was right. Fortunately his work proved not to have forestalled mine, except for the phrases dealt with in nrs. 9, 11, 35 to 38 and 59. His work and the critical remarks referred to above necessitated slight alterations in nrs. 35 to 37.

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Corrigendum et addendum.

Delete: p 36, line 6 from bottom.

The article referred to on p. 29 will be found in *Les Langues Modernes*, April, 1948.