Most people think that dictionaries contain words and that words contain letters. To a certain extent this is true. However, dictionaries contain more than just words— they contain abbreviations, symbols, prefixes, suffixes and phrases as well. For example, NATIONAL SCHOOL-BUS CHROME is in Webster’s Third. So, too, is the prefix CONTRA-. To avoid continually distinguishing between words, phrases, prefixes and so on, all of which are in the dictionary, we lump them all together and refer to them as entries. We could even go so far as to call these entries lexemes—that is, meaningful forms that belong to the vocabulary of English.

No more than dictionaries list just words are lexemes composed of just letters. Apart from the twenty-six letters of the alphabet (both upper and lower case), there are hosts of other characters used to spell lexemes. Among a multitude of these characters are the comma, the hyphen, the apostrophe, various accents, Greek letters and even digits. We propose in the remainder of this article to investigate those Websterian lexemes that use digits.

It isn’t too difficult to find lexemes in Webster’s Third which use each of the ten digits 0 through 9. The following list has one example for each digit:

0. COBALT 60
1. CARBON 13
2. 20/20
3. INDO RED MV-6632
4. 4-H’ER
5. LSD 25
6. RHODAMINE 6G
7. FRENCH 75
8. 1080
9. STRONTIUM 90

The compilation of this short list was far too easy. Feeling that something more challenging was called for, we decided to attempt the compilation of a list where each lexeme contains a number rather than a digit. For example, the lexeme INDO RED MV-6632 in the above list contains three different digits, 2, 3, and 6, but only one number, 6632. For how many different numbers can we find lexemes? Our list is given below. Most of the entries in this list are real compounds that have been found in the dictionary. However, most of them are obscure and not used commonly. For example, 4-H’ER was used by the chemist who named it. Also:
list are boldface entries taken from the main sections of Webster's Second and Third Editions. A few, however, were taken from the Addenda sections of these two editions (40, 64, 1068, 1947, 7618 and 10820 from the Second, and 137 from the Third); others were taken from the Gazetteer sections of the First and Second Editions (70 and 304 from the First, and 295 from the Second).

- M-1 RIFLE
- A2 HORIZON
- C3
- 4 H' ER
- VITAMIN K5
- RHODAMINE 6G
- ACETOPURPURLINE 8B
- ALKALI FAST GREEN 10 G
- VITAMIN B12
- CARBON 13
- CARBON 14
- 20/20
- LSD 25
- PHOSPHORUS 32
- 20/40
- THE '45
- COBALT 60
- $64 QUESTION
- HILL 70
- FRENCH 75
- STRONTIUM 90
- IODINE 131
- CESIUM 137
- DUTCH 200
- BAYER 205
- URANIUM 235
- TEXTILE RED WR-263
- HILL 295
- HILL 304
- 400
- EHRlich'S 606
- TB 1-698
- 1068
- 1080
- ORDINANCE OF 1787
- WAR OF 1812
- COMPROMISE OF 1820
- GROOMBRIDGE 1830
- COMPROMISE OF 1850
- CRIME OF 1873
- UNITED STATES RIFLE, MODEL OF 1903
- CHURCH ENABLING ACT OF 1919
- ROMANESTA RED MT-2544
- GINGER BROWN T-5902
- INDO RED MV-6632
- SN 7618
- 10280

On this list the lexemes for 13, 14, 32, 60, 90, 131, 137 and 235 are the names of isotopes of chemical elements. The fact that the Third Edition lists just these eight isotopes is indicative of how abridged unabridged dictionaries can be. If the Third listed all the known isotopes rather than the more notorious ones, we would have lexemes for all numbers up to at least 250. Alas, it doesn't and we don't.

The fact that Webster's Second lists the geographical name HILL 295 leads us to infer that there are hills numbered up to at least 294 and that the Webster editors just haven't bothered to include them. The gazetteer of the First Edition confirms this to a certain extent, because it lists HILL 70 (and also HILL 60, which we didn't have to include in the above list). The First Edition lists HILL 304 also, which implies that there exist further hills numbered up to at least 303. Why, numbered 294, 304 and 305.

The entire reference to the reason, the gazetteer of the First Edition, is included, but the reference to the geographical name HILL 295 leads us to infer that there are hills numbered up to at least 294 and that the Webster editors just haven't bothered to include them. The gazetteer of the First Edition confirms this to a certain extent, because it lists HILL 70 (and also HILL 60, which we didn't have to include in the above list). The First Edition lists HILL 304 also, which implies that there exist further hills numbered up to at least 304. Why, numbered 294, 304 and 305.
Why, oh Websterian editors, did you not include those hills numbered 296 to 303?

The entries on the above list can be extensively supplemented by reference to the dye tables given in the Third Edition. For some reason, the Webster dictionaries have a near-obsession with dyes. The First, Second and Third Editions have all included special lists of dye-names, the names of each edition being more numerous than those of the preceding edition. The Third’s dye tables can be found, not surprisingly, at the entry DYE. All the supplemental names given in the list below can be found under one of two headings in dye table 1: (a) Commercial Name, or (b) Part I Colour Index Generic Name. Rather than list 106 dye-names in full, we have employed a form of abbreviation. Each of the names on the left of the list below can be followed by one of the numbers to its right.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dye Name</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACID BLACK</td>
<td>31, 47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACID BLUE</td>
<td>93, 102, 104, 109, 110, 113, 118, 120, 158, 161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACID ORANGE</td>
<td>50, 52, 56, 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACID RED</td>
<td>66, 85, 88, 89, 92, 94, 106, 115, 134, 179, 182, 183, 186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACID VIOLET</td>
<td>34, 49, 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACID YELLOW</td>
<td>42, 54, 63, 73, 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZOIC DIAZO</td>
<td>37, 44, 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIRECT BLACK</td>
<td>71, 78, 80, 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIRECT BLUE</td>
<td>86, 98, 126, 127, 130, 133, 136, 175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIRECT BROWN</td>
<td>95, 101, 112, 132, 138, 151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIRECT GREEN</td>
<td>39, 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIRECT RED</td>
<td>79, 84, 121, 122, 123, 148, 149, 152, 153, 155, 189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIRECT YELLOW</td>
<td>59, 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISPERSE YELLOW</td>
<td>11, 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLUORESCENT BRIGHTENER</td>
<td>30, 41, 74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORDANT BROWN</td>
<td>19, 22, 33, 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORDANT GREEN</td>
<td>17, 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORDANT YELLOW</td>
<td>36, 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIGMENT RED</td>
<td>53, 55, 57, 81, 87, 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOLVENT ORANGE</td>
<td>7, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOLVENT RED</td>
<td>24, 48, 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAT BLACK</td>
<td>9, 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAT BLUE</td>
<td>29, 35, 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAT ORANGE</td>
<td>15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAT YELLOW</td>
<td>21, 28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Considering both of the above lists together, the lowest number not represented is 65. And from 65 onwards up to 100 the unrepres-
presented numbers are 67, 68, 69, 77, 82, 91, 96 and 97. Can anyone fill these gaps? Or any of the gaps higher than 100?

We can continue our investigation of number-containing Websterian lexemes if we consider those utilizing Roman numerals (I, V, X, L, C, D and M) rather than Arabic digits (0-9). We have managed to find examples from I to V in the main sections of the Second and Third Editions:

- HELIUM I
- CODEHYDROGENASE II
- ORANGE III
- SUDAN IV
- PARA BROWN V

Beyond this, we have used the gazetteer and biographical sections of the Second Edition:

- KING GEORGE VI FALLS
- FERDINAND VII
- KING EDWARD VIII FALLS
- FREDERICK IX
- CHRISTIAN X
- INNOCENT XI
- PIUS XII
- ALFONSO XIII
- ERIC XIV
- BENEDICT XV
- GREGORY XVI
- LOUIS XVII
- LOUIS XVIII
- JOHN XXII
- JOHN XXIII

Can anyone fill the XIX, XX and XXI gaps? There have been popes called JOHN XIX, JOHN XX and JOHN XXI (the last two were the same person!), but Webster's Second just doesn't bother to list them. Can anyone find examples greater than XXIII?

One example has been provided by Ralph Beaman: LXX, the Roman numeral often used to designate the Septuagint. This is the Greek version of the Old Testament (originally produced by seventy scholars) still in use in the Eastern Church.