

The Word "Jew."

OUR readers will observe with no small gratification from a letter which appears elsewhere in our columns this week, that in deference to the protests that have appeared in THE JEWISH CHRONICLE, the Delegates of the Clarendon Press have decided that in future editions of the Pocket Oxford Dictionary the sinister meaning attached to the word "Jew" shall be qualified by the insertion of the word "figurative." This is perhaps not so much as some of us could have wished, which would have been the total removal of what we termed the stumbling block which the Dictionary placed before the eyes of the blind, by the interpretation that has been impugned. But at least what the Delegates have determined to do will act as a warning so that any seeker through the Dictionary of the meaning of "Jew" will, by the word now to be interpolated, be placed on further enquiry when he finds it given as "unscrupulous usurer or bargainer," and will not be led into thinking—as we contend he might by the interpretation as given in the present edition of the book—that every Jew is essentially the sort of person thus described. For this the recognition of the Jewish Community will be freely accorded to the Delegates of the Clarendon Press. They will note it as an indication of the freedom of these gentlemen (which no one, knowing anything of them, for a moment suspected) from anything in the nature of anti-Jewish sentiment. While upon the subject, may we add that, in our view, the first meaning given in the Dictionary of the word "Jew"—"person of the Hebrew race"—is open to much obvious objection. We would suggest that a better one is: a person who recognises his membership of the Jewish Community, and is identified with it either by race or religion. Perhaps in revising the Dictionary for the next edition this suggestion of ours may be thought worth consideration by those responsible.