S, ſ, or s, the 18th letter and 14th conſonant of our alphabet; the found of which is formed by driving the breath through a narrow paſſage between the pa­late and the tongue elevated near it, together with a motion of the lower jaw and teeth towards the upper, the lips being a little way open; with ſuch a configu­ration of every part of the mouth and larynx, as renders the voice ſomewhat ſibilous and hiſſing. Its found, however, varies; being ſtrong in ſome words, as this, thus, &c. and ſoft in words which have a final e, as muſe, wiſe, &c. It is generally doubled at the end of words, whereby they become hard and harſh, as in kiſs, loss, &c. In ſome words it is ſilent, as iſle, iſland, viſcount, &c. In writing or printing, the long character ſ is generally uſed at the beginning and middle of words, but the ſhort s at the end.

In abbreviations, S ſtands for *ſocietas* or *ſocius;* as,

R. S. S. for *regiae ſoc'etatis ſocius, i. e.* fellow of the royal ſociety. In medicinal preſcriptions, S. A. ſigni­fies *ſecundum artem,* i. e. according to the rules of art: And in the notes of the ancients, S ſtands for *Sextus;*

S. P. for *Spurius;* S. C. *for ſenatus conſultum;* S. P. Q. R. *for ſenatus populuſque Romanus;* S. S. S. *for ſtratum ſu- per ſtratum,* i. e. one layer above another alternately; S. V. B. E. E. Q. V. for *ſi vales bene eſt, ego quoque va­leo,* a form uſed in Cicero’s time, in the beginning of letters. Uſed as a numeral, S anciently denoted ſeven; in the Italian inuſic, S ſignifies *ſolo:* And in books of navigation, S. ſtands for ſouth; S. E. for ſouth-eaſt; S. W. for ſouth-weſt; S. S. E. for ſouth ſouth-eaſt; S. S. W for ſouth ſouth-weſt &c.

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