WORK AND PLAY WITH NUMBERS

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Work and Play with Numbers by George Wentworth & David Eugene Smith

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GEORGE WENTWORTH & DAVID EUGENE SMITH

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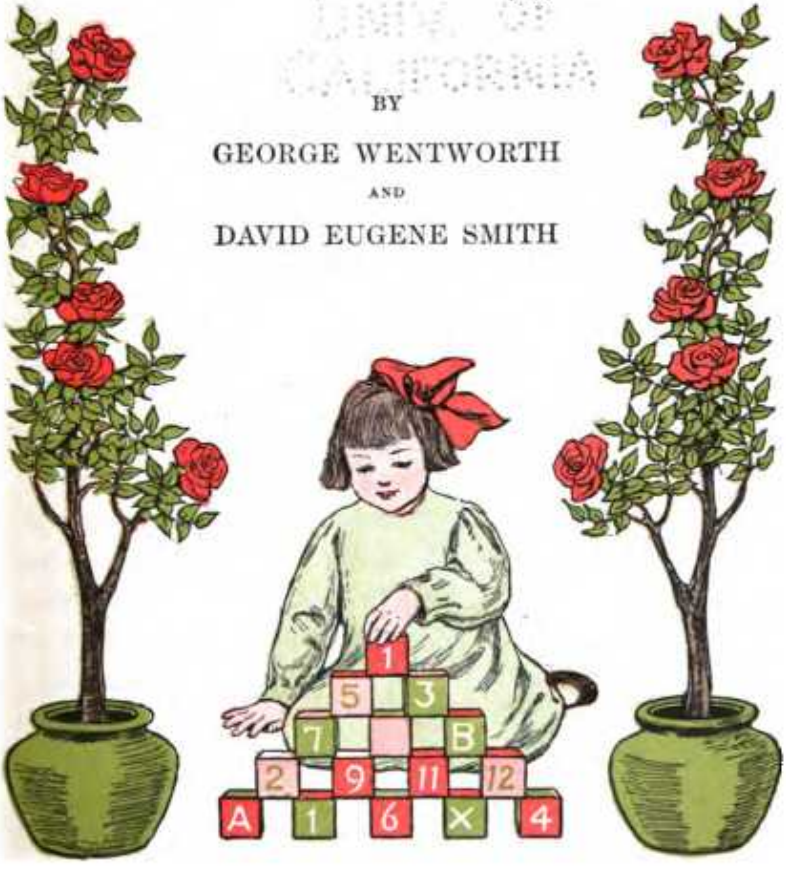
UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

BY

GEORGE WENTWORTH

AND

DAVID EUGENE SMITH



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PREFACE

It has been recognized ever since the days of Pestalozzi that children when they first enter school have a taste for number work and also a considerable knowledge of numerical forms. They use numbers in their games, they talk about them, they like to count, and they enjoy a little work and play with numbers within their mental grasp.

On the other hand, children of this age are not ready for such a study of arithmetic as the formal textbook offers. A textbook of that kind would take away their love for number and would place upon them a burden heavier than they could carry.

Not to begin the study of the subject when the child enters school, however, is to say that the child's natural tastes should not be fostered. What we need is to introduce, in an informal and attractive fashion, such number work as is within his grasp at this time.

Experience shows that children can easily learn the combinations in addition, and part of those in multiplication, before taking up a formal study of the subject; in other words, they can cover the work included in this little book. Since the entire multiplication table is sometimes required, it is given at the end of the book, to be developed in the usual manner if necessary.

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To meet the need which the experience of teachers has justified, the authors have set forth, informally and in simple language, the number facts that should be mastered. They have not attempted to prepare a textbook of the conventional type, nor yet a mere book of devices to impose upon the teacher certain methods that she cannot profitably use. They have sought to offer to the schools a book that shall serve as a guide and helper both to the teacher and to the pupil, one that shall save labor, furnish a list of reading exercises, and suggest a basis for somewhat informal work with beginners.

It will be observed that the type has been selected with greatest care. A child at this time needs to train the eye to see number relations, and that he may do this without undue visual exertion, a large and heavy type is used. He also needs to write numbers, and when asked to do this the numbers have been put in script. He also needs to read the ordinary printed numerals, and when these appear in sentences they are in the usual printed form. In this way, with a minimum of eye strain, he accomplishes the important results mentioned.

The authors desire to express their appreciation of the artistic work of Miss Hope Dunlap, whose illustrations will, they feel sure, bring delight to thousands of children.

GEORGE WENTWORTH
DAVID EUGENE SMITH

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WORK AND PLAY WITH NUMBERS

CHAPTER I

NUMBER WORK TO 10. COUNTING TO 100

HICKORY, dickory, dock,
The mouse ran up the clock,
The clock struck one,
And down he ran,
Hickory, dickory, dock.

1 one • / one

The clock struck one.
I see one clock.
I see one
I see one ✱ and one
I write one like this: /.