EVERYDAY ARITHMETIC. BOOK ONE

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Everyday Arithmetic. Book One by Franklin S. Hoyt & Harriet E. Peet

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PREFACE

This book is intended for use in the third and fourth grades; but, if desired, it may be begun in the second grade. It aims primarily to give a child an active interest in number and to make him intelligent and skillful in applying it to his everyday experiences.

The work is arranged so that there is a systematic development of number concepts, and of the fundamental facts and processes; but, in approaching the formal work, the book makes an important departure from current practice. The problems and exercises are grouped by situations taken from actual experience, so that a child meets number vitally related to his home and school interests. The fundamental facts and tables are taught through games and plays; the fundamental processes, largely through school and community interests. United States money is taught through a series of projects in buying and selling; and measuring, through construction work.

The advantages of this grouping are threefold: It gives a child insight into the purpose of number work and wins his hearty cooperation; it breaks down the artificial barrier between the arithmetic that is taught in the schoolroom and that which a child meets in his outside experience, so that the two become interwoven and both are enriched; further, it gives a child that which is of prime importance, power to use the number processes under conditions similar to those that confront him in life.

From the formal standpoint, recent investigations in the teaching of arithmetic have shown a need of more systematic treatment of the fundamental facts and processes. The organization of the formal work in this book is such as to make provision for daily practice work in the essential processes, and at the same time for a differentiation, one at a time, of limited groups of number facts for complete and automatic mastery. After the first steps in number have

been taken, no child is asked to compute with numbers that he has not had an opportunity to master thoroughly. In this way bad habits are avoided, and speed and accuracy commensurate with a child's maturity are secured.

Another aspect of the work that demands attention in the modern schoolroom is the difference in the ability of the pupils. To meet this need, Part One of this book suggests the making of original problems. These give a child an opportunity to go into a topic as far as his ability will carry him. Part Two follows the plan for original problems begun in Part One, but makes a further provision for the differences in ability by including in the text optional problems. These problems are intended to stimulate the brighter pupils without discouraging those pupils who have neither the time nor the strength for them.

Some of the other features to which the authors desire to call attention are the careful grading of the exercises, the rational use of objective work, the elimination of unpsychological explanations, analyses, and crutches, and the care that has been taken to follow in every way the trend of progressive educational practice and thus make the book of the greatest possible help to both teachers and pupils.

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