THE PRINCIPLES OF CHECK FIGURE SYSTEMS FOR ACCOUNTANTS AND BOOKKEEPERS

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FOR

ACCOUNTANTS AND BOOKKEEPERS.

With numerous devices for quickly obtaining the check-figure of Pounds, Shillings and Pence, or Decimal Coinage from 5 selected base-numbers; and special hints for discovering Errors.

BY

GEORGE H. HAY, C.A.,

MEMBER OF THE FIRM OF BOURNER, BULLOCK & CO.,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, HANLEY.

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TO

THOMAS W. TWYFORD, Esq., J.P., D.L.,

OF

Whitmore Hall, Staffordshire,

In grateful acknowledgment of the experience gained from numerous investigations, necessitating quick methods, entrusted to me during the past fourteen years in England, and more recently in Germany.

PREFACE.

SEVERAL secret Check Figure Systems are in use in this country, for which fees varying from two to five guineas have originally been charged.

The Author is personally aware that some of those Systems are either not sufficiently quick or reliable to merit their adoption by Bookkeepers generally, and endeavours in the following treatise to overcome, as far as possible, the obstacles which deter many commercial houses from adopting a System which is certain to lessen the anxiety of a Bookkeeper at the periodical balancing of his books.

No great progress in this direction may be expected if such a system is not fully disclosed until a high fee is paid; and while the Author expresses his indebtedness to those Accountants who have related their experiences, and defined the limitations of certain systems, he is of opinion that much which has hitherto been written on the subject has been in ignorance of the quicker methods only divulged to those who pay the current secret system rates.

A Check Figure System is a strain upon any Bookkeeper unless the check-figure can be obtained *almost by inspection*, and it is unprofitable to adopt any base-number which will not detect over 500 possible mispostings through transpositions of Pounds, Shillings and Pence.

The Author is thoroughly convinced that some Check Figure Systems now in use would never

have obtained favour if the facts demonstrated in these pages had been clearly set forth. Possibly the inventor has not been cognisant of the weaknesses of his own particular System, and it is hoped that a perusal of these pages will convince the purchasers of such Systems that a further endeavour was essential in order to obtain a Check Figure System which would reduce the number of possible mispostings to a minimum, and at the same time lessen, if possible, the mental calculation necessary for extracting the check-figure. The formulæ for the various base-numbers are the results of independent calculations made by the Author in order to obtain the quickest possible method of arriving at the check-figure, and while they may differ from those suggested by other Authors, the errors shown under each base-number will not be detected by using any other formula, provided no device has been introduced, in the manner indicated herein, to alter the relative values of one pound, one shilling and one penny.

After a careful study of the Systems based on the numbers 7, 14, 13 and 17, selected as most suitable for catching transpositions in the Pounds column, and speedily ascertaining the check-figure, the Author submits that the System recommended by him in these pages is not only quicker but more reliable than those Systems.

The Author is indebted to his friend Mr. H. Davis, of Leek, for assisting him in revising the proofs.

SPENCER AVENUE,
LEEK. April, 1908.

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