BOLSHEVIK MULTIPLICATION.

BY H. J. R. TWIGG.

Certain South Russian peasants are able to multiply together figures no matter how large, and yet do so while *unable to do anything more than double, halve, add, or subtract*, and not understanding fractions; any such arising have to be ignored. The *modus operandi* is as shown in four examples:

No. 1. Multiply (say) 40×25 :(i) Put 40 at the top of the left-hand column (or *vice versa*).

(ii) Put 25 at the top of the right-hand column to match.

(iii) Go on halving the left hand.

(iv) Go on doubling the right hand.

Ignore left hand. Total up right hand (*except where left-hand figures are even*).

L.	R.
40	25
20	50
10	100
5	200
2	400
1	800
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	1000

No. 2. Say 28×10 :

L.	R.	
28	10	Not added, 28 even
14	20	Not added, 14 even
7	40	$\frac{1}{2}$ of 7 = $3\frac{1}{2}$. The $\frac{1}{2}$ ignored
3	80	$\frac{1}{2}$ of 3 = $1\frac{1}{2}$. The $\frac{1}{2}$ ignored
1	160	
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	280	

No. 3. Say 9×6 :

L.	R.	
9	6	$\frac{1}{2}$ of 9 = $4\frac{1}{2}$. The $\frac{1}{2}$ ignored
4	12	(4 is even)
2	24	(2 is even)
1	48	
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	54	

No. 4. Say 28×19 :

L.	R.
28	19
14	38
7	76
3	152
1	304
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	532

Correct every time!

Can any readers of *School Science and Mathematics* explain the principle involved in these operations or throw any light upon its origin?—[*School World*.

LOAN \$7,097,000,000 TO ALLIES.

Up to date the United States has loaned the allies \$7,097,000,000, of which \$6,377,787,895 has been expended in this country in purchasing their obligations for munitions, food, etc. The allies still have a large balance to their credit in the treasury.