

## BOOK REVIEWS.

*The Appleton Arithmetic.* Books I, II. By J. W. A. YOUNG, University of Chicago, and L. L. JACKSON, State Normal School, Brockport, N. Y. Appleton (Third and last volume to appear soon).

IN these times great courage and good judgment are prime requisites on the part of qualified men to produce successfully a new series of texts on arithmetic. Particularly is this true in view of the facts that so great a number are upon the market, and that neither the publishers nor the public are prepared fitly to recognize and support what is pedagogically best. It must be conceded, however, upon impartial investigation, that the trained, experienced, and able educators, Messrs. Young and Jackson, have succeeded admirably, both from a pedagogic and from a practical standpoint, in giving the people of this country two books of their series which stand at the head of such publications.

In these books stress has been put upon the useful in a teachable way, while the obsolete has been omitted. A minimum of theory is presented, and that in the main incidentally. The arrangement of the subject-matter wisely follows the mental development of the child rather than the logical order. The problems are modern, systematic, interesting, and well calculated to impress the topics they illustrate. Frequently they are solved experimentally, in ways which appeal agreeably to children.

The pictures and diagrams are primarily for instruction. They will gain and hold the attention of learners because they deal with objects and scenes intrinsically interesting and within the experience of the young. The mechanical execution is attractive.

The frequent reviews are admirable. So also is the frequent recurrence to subjects as the maturity and broader grasp of the student enables him to master the topics more completely. Surely the introduction of the simplified weights is correctly done, especially in connection with the ingenious practical uses to be actually exemplified within the classroom.

A reader of the books is favorably impressed by the forms introduced to illustrate business transactions, such as gas bill, lease, money order, receipt, check, and cash account.

The principles are made evident by means of well-graded problems, drawn from every-day life in original ways. The devices used are valuable and suggestive as to correct methods of imparting the elements of mathematical knowledge.

The index is a new feature in elementary arithmetics, both appropriate and necessary in connection with the pedagogical order of topics.

Such are some of the reasons why these books are considered a distinct advance over previous arithmetics. They should aid in securing superior results in training the young where they are intelligently and sympathetically used.

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