

The work certainly marks the greatest advance in the pedagogy of elementary mathematics which has yet appeared, and is deserving of a wide adoption as a text.

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*Business Arithmetic.* By C. W. SUTTON and N. J. LENNES. Allyn and Bacon, 1918.

THIS book begins in the most elementary manner with the most elementary operations of arithmetic and covers in great detail their applications to almost every kind of a business transaction which one could imagine which calls for such elementary operations. A printed list of topics which are considered would be far too long to give here. So much information of a business nature is given and given so carefully that the book should prove valuable to any one, particularly a business man, as a book of reference; it is veritably a compendium of business knowledge. However, as a textbook, it violates the well-developed belief that better results are obtained by presenting relatively few fundamental principles and facts and then devoting the rest of the time to stimulating independent thought, rather than by the statement and explanation of a multitude of fairly independent principles and facts. It may be that business arithmetic is an exception. Only those who are familiar with the great number of terms and expressions involved can appreciate the difficulties of attempting to treat the subject in accordance with the theory advanced above.

There is a multitude of problems—there are over one hundred problems on some pages—but the problems are so elementary and frequently so similar that it seems at times that sufficient drill could be obtained by a smaller number and valuable time thus gained.

It is the reviewer's belief that any textbook on elementary mathematics—and especially one on business arithmetic—should include at least a simple statement or discussion of some of the rules for numerical computation. It is with considerable misgivings that we note (in Art. 147) the instructions given the student in adding the numbers 12., 1.49, .978, 640.2, 4.904, .007, which will surely serve to authorize him to ignore the adopted convention followed in writing numbers to indicate the degree of the accuracy. Twelve problems follow on page 115 establishing firmly this dangerous fault which is already all too prevalent.