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## Our School Department.

Our Own Arithmetic. by prof. s. b. mecready, in "rural Of course we have book arithmetic in the Dawn Valley School. We have the hard problems that puzzle us sometimes. And we have mental arithmetic. That's fun! Walter Owens is so quick at it that Miss Shantz can't give a question
too fast for him to follow. Sometimes too fast for him to follow. Sometimes
she lets some of as give out the questions. she lets some of as give out the questions.
That's fun too. But the arithmetic we like best is our own arithmetic. We make our own questions, and when we can't invent them ourselves, we get
folk at home to help us find them.
This is how we carry out the plan.
At first Miss Shantz used to tell us every At first Miss Shantz used to tell us every
week what topics we were to work in, buit week what topics we were to work in, but after a wirte she let us choose topics
for ourselves. Usually the boys chose one topic, and the girls another. Sometimes Miss Shantz has to show us by examples what she wants us to do. The problems are handed in Friday morning, and after looking them over and commenting on them, $\begin{aligned} & \text { bulletin board During the following }\end{aligned}$ week we work them out in different classes as a part of our regular work in arithmetic. The teacher then puts the ques-
tions together in a folder We tions together in a folder. We always
write the questions on the same size write the questions on the same size
paper, so that the sheets will form a pear arithmetic booklet for use in future
neal classes.
Here are some of the topics on which
problems have been made we have been more than a year at the work now. On Measuring Lengrts.-The dim-
mensions of books, slates, envelopes, mensions of books, slates, envelopes,
calentars, desks, maps, window-panes, win lows, stoves, pictures, newspapers, our homes, barns, fields, and the dis tances from home to school. For these we used foot rules, "spanning," yard sticks, "stepping off," the lengths of
strings, a bamboo fish pole one rad long, strings, a bamboo fish pole one rod long, and a tape measure that Miss Shantz
borrowed from Mr. Decker A few of the hoys can get really wonderfully correct measurements by spanning and stepping. And Earl Myers judzes re-
markably well by his eye Measuring markably well by his eye. Measuring from the school gate in both directions, mark a furlong. We have also set up quarter-mile posts.
On Estimating Areas.- The surfaces well as the mats, rugs, and floors and walls of rooms at home. We also had a small role and a large roll of wall paper to
measure. Lucy Larsen brought these measure. Lucy Larsen brought these
from home. "'Papering",
questions were easy after that. On Calculating Contents.- The
number of cubic inch reet or yards
 butterprints, barns, stables, wagon boxes, etc. For the highest class there wood, questions also on silos, tanks, and milk On Weights.-The weights of our
books, our school lunches, of bricks, stones, small boxes of sand and earth,
bottles, pieces of iron, pails of water, blocks of wood, measures of grain, a
dozen eggs, etc. For weighing things
at school we borrowed Mr scales for two weeks. Nearly everryone of us hecame quite expert, too, at judging
weights of sticks of wood, stones, books
$\qquad$ receipts, saving money, the value of
implements, the cost insurance, cost of furnishing a kitchen,
feediny stock, etc. compartisonn of ue of the school equipment.


Ov Time,-The rate of walking and

Sámples of Our Prohlems, On Our Ages, By Ansie Smart he is, he would be three years younger th than Rob, whe only three years olk Arthur? Ov Our
Constanceights, By Mabil Johson weigh 3 pounds more, Lucy pounds less than half our weighs weights. What is Lucy's wreight? On Our Heights, By Andrew McI Arthur, $4^{\prime} 11^{\prime \prime} ;$ Tom, $4^{\prime} 8^{\prime \prime}$. Fred $5^{\prime \prime}$ Arthur, $4^{\prime} 11^{\prime \prime}$; Tom, $4^{\prime} 8^{\prime \prime}$; Fred, $5{ }^{\prime \prime} 0$ is our average height? How much tall are the two taller of as than the shorter?
If a money, By Constance Balipin every week the number of cents that it years old, starting when it reaches first birthday, what will its savings an to when it completes its twelfth yar?
What would be saved in 10 yer the rate of: (1) saved in 10 ye cents a week; (3) 50 cents a maynth On Walking Home, By Fred Ne The front of our school grounds actual measurement is 8 rods. Time by the teacher's watch it takes Karl an me on an average just about oneha
minute to walk past usual rate. As a rule it takes mealo 40 minutes' steady walking to come school. It takes Karl about 45 min How far are our homes from the echox By taking a short cut across the fed What distance is saved by taking th short cut?

Exterminate the English Sparrow.
By N. L. M. Since the English Sparrow is a po to require any detailed evidenic convict it as a public nuisance, feasible plan of decreasing its ought to be worth considering. could we fractice its dirity pesting halil in every possible nook upon the premiles from the ivied porch and garden tre to the straw-stack and hencoop, hardly afford, in these days, to- perm this greedy little boarder to leer viluablo grain. A farmer recently stated that two acres of oats and barley groving near the barn had been almost st of grain by this troublesome bir if in addition to the grain thus from standing crops, amount eaten among feeding hens ant especially among broods of chicks, by the sparrow, the annual loss to province is quite sufficient to attention our sparing the matter a And here is a suggestion, alall boys in ong school section, without any hint of being rewarded, collected in all about a thour sand English sparrow eggs. These wert blown out and threaded, and in thay course of making the collection mas as a number of young birds were also as a number of young oned to
destroyed. It has since occurred to that if trustee boards or farmers' clubs were to offer some stimulus to all the boys in the country to wage persistent it might eventually be gotten rid of. For, when one even roughly reckons the steady decrease in reproduction through this systematic destruction of eggs and young birds, the possibitity does not exterminating the sparrow does ling
look like such a hopeless undertaking after all such and after all.
One objected that the boys might collect the eggs of other birds, butt feel this is a groundless fear, for 1 anid assured the average farm boy is too familiar with the nest and the nesting too familiar with che nest arr grievously in this direction. And in any case it could easily be arranged to bar anyone
who made errors in collecting from reeeiving a reward.

