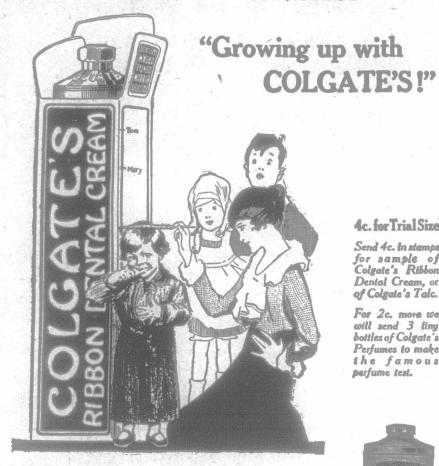
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Our School Department.

Our Own Arithmetic.

BY PROF. S. B. MCCREADY, IN "RURAL SCIENCE READER

Of course we have book arithmetic in the Dawn Valley School. We have to have that even if some of us don't like 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 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 the 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 week what topics we were to work in, but after a while 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, Miss Shantz puts them on our bulletin board. During the following week we work them out in different classes as a part of our regular work in arithmetic. The teacher then puts the questions together in a folder. We always write the questions on the same size paper, so that the sheets will form a neat arithmetic booklet for use in future

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 LENGTHS.—The dimmensions of books, slates, envelopes, calendars, desks, maps, window-panes, windows, stoves, pictures, newspapers, the school building, the school grounds, our homes, barns, fields, and the distances from home to school. For these we used foot rules, "spanning," yard sticks, "stepping off," the lengths of strings, a bamboo fish pole one rod long, and a tape measure that Miss Shantz borrowed from Mr. Decker. A few of the boys can get really wonderfully correct measurements by spanning and stepping. And Earl Myers judges remarkably well by his eye. Measuring from the school gate in both directions, we drove in stakes on the roadside to mark a furlong. We have also set up quarter-mile posts.

ON ESTIMATING AREAS.—The surfaces of all the things mentioned above as well as the mats, rugs, and floors and walls of rooms at home. We also had a small roll and a large roll of wall paper to measure. Lucy Larsen brought these from home. "Papering" questions were easy after that.

ON CALCULATING CONTENTS.— The number of cubic inches feet, or yards in books, pasteboard les, blocks of wood, pieces of plank, chalk boxes, butterprints, barns, stables, wagon boxes, mows, bins, railway cars, piles of wood, etc. For the highest class there were iestions also on silos, tanks, and milk cans.

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. Conrad's scales for two weeks. Nearly everyone in the school learned to use them. Some of us became quite expert, too, at judging weights of sticks of wood, stones, books,

On Money Matters.—Cheese factory receipts, saving money, the value of implements, the cost of food, taxes, insurance, cost of furnishing a kitchen, feeding stock, etc., the cost of making clothes, the value of the school equipment, comparisons of market prices from week to

Ov TIME.—The rate of walking and running, on our ages, on the difference in the length of days, the proportion of time spent in sleeping, working, eating, etc., guessing times with eyes

Samples of Our Problems, ON OUR AGES, BY ANNIE SWARIZ. If Arthur were three years younger than

he is, he would be only three years older than Rob, who is seven. How old is Arthur?

ON OUR WEIGHTS, BY MABEL JOHNSON, Constance weights 69 pounds and I weigh 3 pounds more, Lucy weighs 2 pounds less than half our combined weights. What is Lucy's weight?

ON OUR HEIGHTS, BY ANDREW MCLEAN The height of the boys in our class are; Arthur, 4' 11"; Tom, 4' 8"; Fred, 5' 0" Karl, 5' 2"; and myself, 4' 0". What is our average height? How much taller are the two taller of as than the two shorter?

SAVING MONEY, BY CONSTANCE BALFOUR If a child saves (or has saved for it every week the number of cents that it is years old, starting when it reaches its first birthday, what will its savings amount

when it completes its twelfth year?
What would be saved in 10 years at the rate of: (1) 1 cent a day; (2) 10 cents a week; (3) 50 cents a month? ON WALKING HOME, BY FRED NEXON

The front of our school grounds by actual measurement is 8 rods. Timed by the teacher's watch it takes Karl and me on an average just about one half minute to walk past, walking at our usual rate. As a rule it takes me about 40 minutes' steady walking to come to school. It takes Karl about 45 minutes

How far are our homes from the school By taking a short cut across the fields I can reach the school in 32 minutes. What distance is saved by taking the short cut?

Exterminate the English Sparrow.

By N. L. M.

Since the English Sparrow is a pest too well known to farmers, and others to require any detailed evidence to convict it as a public nuisance, any feasible plan of decreasing its numbers ought to be worth considering. Even could we forgive its persistent determina tion to practice its dirty pesting habits in every possible nook upon the premise from the ivied porch and garden tree to the attention and hard an to the straw-stack and hencoop, we can hardly afford, in these days, to permit this greedy little boarder to feed in ever increasing numbers upon our valuable grain. A farmer recently stated that two acres of oats and barley growing near the barn had been almost stripped of grain by this troublesome bird. Notifi in addition to the grain thus pillered from standing crops, one considers the amount eaten among feeding hens and especially among broods of chicks by the sparrow, the annual loss to the province is quite sufficient to warrant our sparing the matter a little attention.

And here is a suggestion. A few years ago three small boys in one school section, without any hint of being rewarded, collected in all about a thou sand English sparrow eggs. These were blown out and threaded, and in the course of making the collection many eggs too far matured "to blow," as well as a number of young birds were also destroyed. It has since occurred to me that if trustee boards or farmers' clubs were to offer some stimulus to all the boys in the country to wage persistent annual war upon this harmful bird, 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 possibility of finally exterminating the sparrow does not look like such a hopeless undertaking after all after all.

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One objected that the boys might collect the eggs of other birds, but I feel this is a groundless fear, for I am assured the average farm boy is quite too familiar with the nest and the nesting habits of the sparrow to err grievously in this direction. And in any case it could easily be arranged to bar anyone who made errors in collecting from receiving a reward.