THE UNITARY SYSTEM.

The Unitary System may be described in general terms as the method of solving arithmetical problems without reference to formal rules. It is so named from the fact that in solving questions by independent analysis, we usually reason from the given elements to unity. and from unity to the required result. The unit, however, is not necessarily one of the given elements; to secure clearness in reasoning, or facility in solution, the required result itself, or any element of the question logically connected with that result, may be taken as the unit of reference. In attaining the two important objects of instruction in arithmetic-valuable intellectual discipline and practical mastery of the subject-the superiority of the Unitary Method over the cumbrous and mechanical processes of the ordinary text-books, will hardly be questioned. These methods are of a purely routine and arbitrary character, tending to induce a "numb rigidity" of intellect, as well as a hazy and all but worthless knowledge of the subject. On the other hand, the Unitary Method, demanding as it does the closest attention and severest exercise of the reasoning faculty, familiarizes the mind with the forms of strict logical inference, and tends to secure that power of continuity of thought which is the very essence of ' intellectual energy. It is maintained by the greatest scholars and the most successful educators-mathematical and non-mathematical-that arithmetic thus taught affords a logical exercise of the highest value. The student is compelled to set clearly before himself the pre-