

MARKING GOODS.

Business men make use of various devices to prevent the cost and selling price mark of their goods from becoming known, except to their salesmen. The device may consist of any word or phrase containing ten different letters or characters, each representing a figure. Thus take the word

C U M B E R L A N D
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

If it is required to write the cost, say \$2.45, and the selling price, say \$3.75, the proper mark will be $\frac{ube}{mle}$.

An extra letter, called a repeater, is used to prevent the repetition of any letter. Hence, instead of writing \$4.00 according to the above key, which would be *rdl*, the *k* or any other letter not found in the key could be used, which would make the mark *rk*.

The following words and phrases afford examples of marking-keys:—

Blackhorse.	Importance.
Cash profit.	Now be sharp.
Hard moneys.	Gambolines.
Do be quick.	Vanderbilt.

Give the cost price, and per cent. advance, and ask your pupils to write cost and selling price, using one of the above key-words.

A FEW TEST QUESTIONS.

1. Name the first year after 1896 that will be leap year?
2. What fraction of an inch is a shoemaker's "size"?
3. How many chains in 198 yards?
4. How many acres in a section of land?
5. Pure gold is how many carats fine?
6. How many *stone* in a barrel of flour?
7. How many units in a gross?
8. What is the value of an English pound in our money?
9. How many pounds in a "long" ton?
10. Name a country that has not a decimal money system?

A GOOD ARITHMETICAL EXERCISE.

A FARMER rented 100 acres of land for one year at \$3.50 an acre. He paid \$2.75 an acre for spring work and \$1.15 a bushel for 212 bushels of seed wheat. He paid 32 cents an acre for sowing the grain, and 65 cents an acre for cutting and saving. The wheat yielded an average of 27 bushels to the acre. After paying 3 cent

a bushel for threshing and 2 cents a bushel for teaming to market, he sold the wheat at \$1.17 a bushel. Find his gain or loss, supposing the whole farm to be put in wheat.

NOTE.—See "The New Arithmetic" for similar exercises.

ONE OR TWO ERRORS.

AN error quite common among cultivated writers is the use of adverbs with the verb to look, as "he looked wretchedly," "she looked beautifully." It might as well be said, "the grass looks greenly," or "the man looks bluey." A man who lives wretchedly will probably look wretched; a woman who is formed and dressed beautifully will look beautiful. The error is the consequence of a confusion of *look* in the sense of to direct the eye, and *look* in the sense to seem, to appear. The same persons who say that a man looked wretchedly or a woman looked beautifully, would not say that he seemed wretchedly, or she seemed beautifully. In the phrases, "he looked well," "she seemed ill," *well* and *ill* are not really adverbs. Such phrases as "I had rather," "you had better," "had have done," "ready to have fallen," "right away," "different to," and "looked wretchedly," have, it need hardly be said, nothing in common with such as "we made the land," "the ship stood up the bay," "he took his journey," "they came in thick," "a house hard by," "I won't put up with it," "given to hospitality," or "stricken in years." The latter are truly idiomatic, and generally metaphorical; and, although they defy analysis, they are not, like the former, at variance with themselves and defiant of reason.

THE PLANETS.

The principal planets are eight in number, including our earth. They have been named after ancient deities: the two interior ones Mercury and Venus, and the exterior ones Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, the three first being smaller than our earth, and the remainder a great deal larger.

To get an idea of the true scale of the solar system, take a globe a little over two feet in diameter to represent the sun; Mercury would now be proportionately represented by a grain of mustard seed, revolving in a circle 164 feet in diameter; Venus, a pea, in a circle of 284 feet in diameter; the earth also a pea, at a distance of 430 feet; Mars, a rather large pin's head, in a circle of 634 feet; Jupiter, a moderate-sized orange, in a circle nearly half a mile across; Saturn, a small orange, in a circle of