

enough if the signs, which it contains in almost every page, are as familiar as they should be, it must necessarily appear more or less obscure to those who have not been habituated to the use of them. They are, however, so few and so simple, that there is no excuse for their not being perfectly understood—particularly by the teacher of arithmetic.

Should peculiar circumstances render a different arrangement of the rules preferable, or make the omission of any of them, for the present at least, advisable, the judicious master will never be at loss how to act—there *may* be instances in which the shortness of the time, or the limited intelligence of the pupil, will render it necessary to confine his instruction to the more important branches. The teacher should, if possible, make it an inviolable rule to receive no answer unless accompanied by its explanation, and its reason. The references which have been subjoined to the different questions, and which indicate the paragraphs where the answers are *chiefly* to be obtained, and also those references which are scattered through the work, will, be found of considerable assistance; for, as the most intelligent pupil will occasionally forget something he has learned, he may not at once see that a certain principle is applicable to a particular case, nor even remember where he has seen it explained.

*Decimals* have been treated of at the same time as integers, because, since both of them follow *precisely* the same laws, when the rules relating to integers are fully understood, there is *nothing new* to be learned on the subject—particularly if what has been said with reference to numeration and notation is carefully borne in mind. Should it, however, in any case, be preferred, what relates to them can be omitted until the learner shall have made some further advance.

The most useful portions of *mental arithmetic* have been introduced into "Practice" and the other rules with which they seemed more immediately connected.

The different rules should be very carefully impressed on the mind of the learner; and when he is found to have been