

BOOK REVIEW

Van Engen, Henry; Hartung, Maurice L.; Stochl, James E.;
Foundations of Elementary School Arithmetic. Chicago, Illinois:
Scott, Foresman and Company. 450 pages.
Distributed by W.J. Gage Limited, 1500 Birchmount Road, Scar-
borough 4, Ontario. \$6.85

The book is written for college students who expect to become elementary school teachers and for teachers who already have had some experience in the classroom. It is not a "methods" book, but is designed for teaching teachers the foundations of arithmetic.

The main topics are the natural numbers, the rational numbers of arithmetic, numeration systems, number systems, the sets of number pairs called proportional relations, measurement and geometry. There is also a brief treatment of the system of rational numbers and the system of real numbers.

Since the choice of content in mathematics and the ways of presenting it are varied, the authors had to make certain decisions. Generally they have presented material that is appropriate for the teacher of young children. For example, in the development of the natural numbers they have used the approach through sets because it is more fruitful than other approaches for suggesting good instructional techniques in the elementary school program.

The material is presented in a form easy to follow. The ideas are developed by means of examples and illustrations. Often in the margin appears a reference to a concept previously developed in the text. There are numerous blocks of exercises throughout the book with responses provided at the back. Each chapter ends with a quiz and a list of supplementary readings. Finally, there is an extensive bibliography at the end of the last chapter.

- T.P.A.