ADVANCED ALGEBRA

HAWKES

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BY

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PREFACE

This book is designed for use in secondary schools and in short college courses. It aims to present in concise but clear form the portions of algebra that are required for entrance to the most exacting colleges and technical schools.

The chapters on algebra to quadratics are intended for a review of the subject, and contain many points of view that should be presented to a student after he has taken a first course on those topics. Throughout the book the attention is concentrated on subjects that are most vital, pedagogically and practically, while topics that demand a knowledge of the calculus for their complete comprehension (as multiple roots, and Sturm's theorem) or are more closely related to other portions of mathematics (as theory of numbers, and series) have been omitted.

The chapter on graphical representation has been introduced early, in the belief that the illumination which it affords greatly enlivens the entire presentation of algebra. The discussion of the relation between pairs of linear equations and pairs of straight lines is particularly suggestive.

In each chapter the discussion is directed toward a definite result. The chapter on theory of equations aims to give a simple and clear treatment of the method of obtaining the real roots of an equation and the theorems that lead to that process. Similarly direct in its argument is the chapter on determinants, its object being the solution of non-homogeneous equations and the necessary evaluation of determinants.

I am under obligations to many friends and colleagues for suggestions, but especially to Professor P. F. Smith, who has read the book both in manuscript and proof and whose numerous suggestions have been invaluable.

New Haven, Connecticut August, 1905

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ALGEBRA TO QUADRATICS

CHAPTER I

FUNDAMENTAL OPERATIONS

- 1. It is assumed that the elementary operations and the meaning of the usual symbols of algebra are familiar and do not demand detailed treatment. In the following brief exposition of the formal laws of algebra most of the proofs are omitted.
- **2. Addition.** The process of adding two positive integers a and b consists in finding a number x such that

$$a+b=x$$
.

For any two given positive integers a single sum x exists which is itself a positive integer.

3. Subtraction. The process of subtracting the positive number b from the positive number a consists in finding a number x such that b + x = a. (1)

This number x is called the **difference** between a and b and is denoted as follows:

a-b=x

a being called the minuend and b the subtrahend.

If a > b and both are positive integers, then a single positive integer x exists which satisfies the condition expressed by equation (1)

or

If a < b, then x is not a positive integer. In order that the process of subtraction may be possible in this case also, we introduce negative numbers which we symbolize by (-a), (-b), etc. When in the difference a-b, a is less than b, we define a-b=(-(b-a)). The processes of addition and subtraction for the negative numbers are defined as follows:

$$(-a)+(-b)=(-(a+b)).$$

 $(-a)+b=(-(a-b)).$
 $a+(-b)=a-b.$
 $(-a)-(-b)=(-(a-b)).$
 $(-a)-b=(-(a+b)).$
 $a-(-b)=a+b.$
 $(-(-a))=a.*$

4. Zero. If in equation (1), a = b, there is no positive or negative number which satisfies the equation. In order that in this case also the equation may have a number satisfying it, we introduce the number zero which is symbolized by 0 and defined by the equation

$$a + 0 = a,$$

$$a - a = 0.$$

The processes of addition and subtraction for this new number zero are defined as follows, where α stands for either a positive or a negative number

$$0 + \alpha = \alpha \pm 0 = \alpha.$$

$$0 - \alpha = -\alpha.$$

$$0 \pm 0 = 0.$$

5. Multiplication. The process of multiplying a by b consists in finding a number x which satisfies the equation

$$a \cdot b = x$$
.

* The symbol for a positive integer might be written (+a), (+b), etc., consistently with the notation for negative numbers. Since, however, no ambiguity results, we omit the + sign. Since the laws of combining the + and - signs given in this and the following paragraphs remove the necessity for the parentheses in the notation for the negative number, we shall omit them where no ambiguity results.

When a and b are positive integers x is a positive integer which may be found by adding a to itself b times. When the numbers to be multiplied are negative we have the following laws,

$$(-a) \cdot (-b) = a \cdot b,$$

$$(-a) \cdot b = a \cdot (-b) = -(a \cdot b),$$

$$0 \cdot \alpha = \alpha \cdot 0 = 0,$$
(1)

where α is a positive or negative number or zero.

These symbolical statements include the statement of the following

PRINCIPLE. A product of numbers is zero when and only when one or more of the factors are zero.

This most important fact, which we shall use continually, assures us that when we have a product of several numbers as

$$a \cdot b \cdot c \cdot d = e$$

first, if e equals zero, it is certain that one or more of the numbers a, b, c, or d are zero; second, if one or more of the numbers a, b, c, or d are zero, then e is also zero.

6. Division. The process of dividing α by β consists in finding a number x which satisfies the equation

$$x \cdot \beta = \alpha,$$
 (1)

where α and β are positive or negative integers, or α is 0.

When α occurs in the sequence of numbers

$$\cdots - 3\beta$$
, -2β , $-\beta$, 0 , β , 2β , 3β , \cdots ,

x is a definite integer or 0, that is, it is a number such as we have previously considered. If α is not found in this series, but is between two numbers of the series, then in order that in this case the process may also be possible we introduce the fraction which we symbolize by $\alpha \div \beta$ or $\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$ and which is defined by the equation

 $\frac{\alpha}{\beta} \cdot \beta = \alpha$.