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Book Department

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Book Department

PRINCIPLES OF BOOKKEEPING AND FARM ACCOUNTS, by J. A. BEXELL and F. G. NICHOLS, pp. 176. *American Book Company*, 1913.

Principles of Bookkeeping and Farm Accounts is of so elementary a character that it can scarcely be of interest to accountants. Indeed the work was not intended for them, but rather for text-book use in farm bookkeeping. Many subjects are enumerated as contained in the text, but for the most part statements are made and procedure outlined without a full discussion of underlying principles.

The first twenty-six pages are given over to illustrations of the use of cash books for recording the receipts and disbursements of (a) private personal accounts, (b) household accounts and (c) poultry accounts. These terms are rather misleading in that the accounts are not really discussed, but only items typical of each group are given to record in a cash book following a model given in the text.

Six pages are devoted to the principles of double entry bookkeeping. The following unusual explanation of double-entry is found on page 37: "You have now noticed that every entry in the journal is found under the corresponding account in the ledger; that the sum of the journal entries equals the sum of the ledger entries, and that the two sides are equal. Hence the term, double-entry." Proper explanation of the term was given on the four preceding pages. The subjects of banking, business letters, business forms, live stock accounts, produce accounts, inventories, farm plots, financial statements, accounts receivable (the text states on page 108 "It is wholly unnecessary to keep accounts with creditors"), and valuation and depreciation are briefly stated and discussed, and in some cases problems or sets are used for illustration. Other problems and short sets are intended to give the student practice in the application of the principles advocated.

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