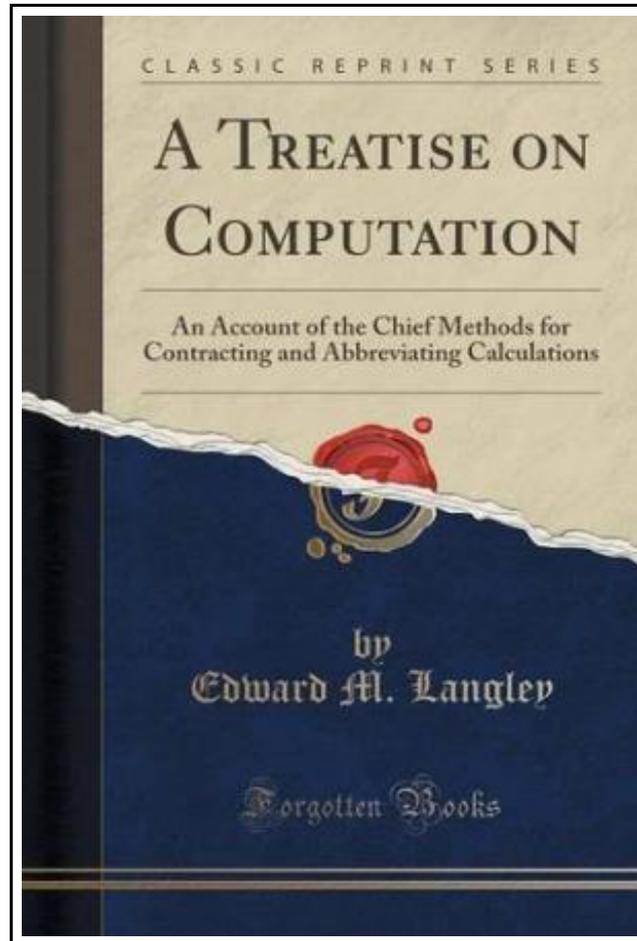


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from *A Treatise on Computation: An Account of the Chief Methods for Contracting and Abbreviating Calculations* In the following little treatise I have aimed at giving an account of the chief general methods for arriving at rapidity of numerical calculation. I have in nearly all cases tried to show the nature of general methods by actual examples worked, rather than by sets of verbal rules, believing strongly in the Newtonian maxim, *Exempla magis prosunt quam precepta*. If due attention were paid in schools to arithmetic as an art of computation, a considerable part of what is here put down might have been omitted; but the majority of teachers seem to be contented to go on inculcating cumbrous and antiquated methods of work which must be discarded by any one who has to perform rapidly and accurately such calculations as are necessary in many branches of applied science; and I have had to point out that fundamental changes must be made in the methods of performing even the most elementary operations. Section I. is therefore devoted to explaining generally what methods are to be chosen for effecting various arithmetical operations without raising the question of abbreviation or approximation. Section II. shows how to abbreviate the processes employed, to obtain approximate results, and to estimate the amount of error to which these are liable. Attention is drawn to the essentially approximate nature of physical calculations, and to the consideration, sometimes neglected, that to whatever degree of accuracy the arithmetical operations are carried out, there cannot be a higher degree of accuracy in the results obtained than in the numerical data on which those calculations are founded. About the...



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