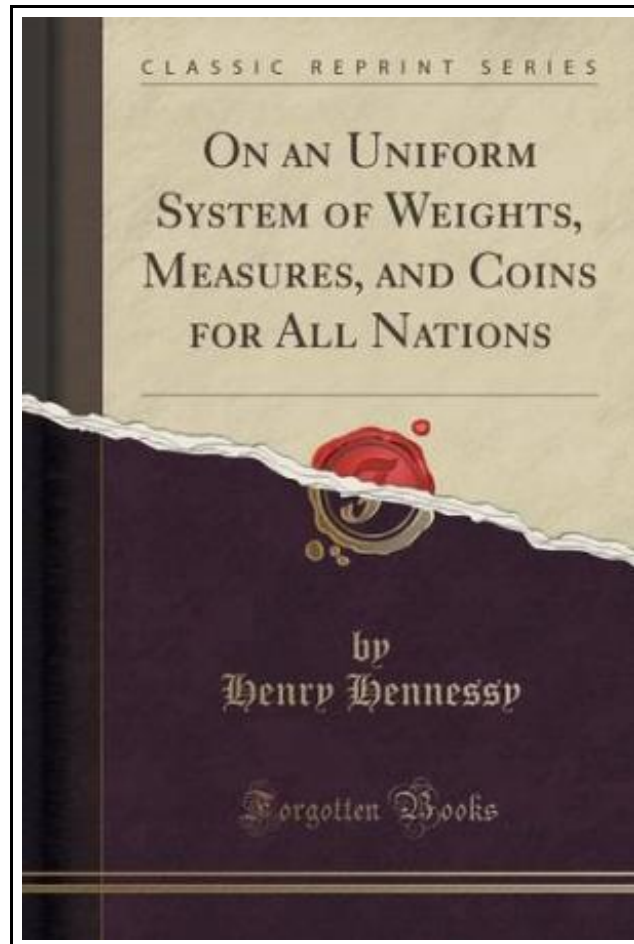


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Excerpt from On an Uniform System of Weights, Measures, and Coins for All Nations Calculations connected with money, weights, and measures make up a great part of the active business of life; and by far the most extensive application of the science of numbers is that made in our daily transactions of buying and selling. Few who are engaged in such calculations will be prepared to state that, considered as arithmetical exercises, they are accompanied with any peculiar intellectual pleasure. The astronomer, who labours over an apparently inextricable mass of numbers, usually feels some interest in a task which even in its progress unfolds relations of symmetry in the arrangements of the material universe; yet he would gladly welcome new processes of computation, which, without impairing the accuracy of his results, would diminish the labour necessary for their evolution. It is, therefore, extremely natural that persons engaged in the ordinary calculations of every-day business should, in like manner, be willing to adopt methods for lessening the time and labour devoted to their computations. In order to arrive at sound conclusions on this question, it is first indispensable to consider the means employed in all kinds of calculations. Mankind have been so long and so universally accustomed to count by tens, that the decimal system of numeration has become associated in our minds with the ground-work of all numerical computations. But this might have been otherwise, and if man had been created with by four or six fingers on each hand, instead of five, we should most probably now employ either eight or twelve as the modulus of our numerical system. Much might be said as to the...



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