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Arithmetic in Joan Benejam's La Enseñanza Racional (1888)

**Abstract :**

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Joan Benejam was born in the island of Menorca in 1846. He became a teacher in 1866 and in 1874 he became elementary school teacher back in his home town, where he spent the rest of his life until his retirement in 1912 (Adrover, Vallespir & Villalonga, 1986). His life was completely devoted to teaching and education. He wrote papers, he gave lectures, he wrote child's plays, etc. He also founded and directed several journals addressed to elementary teachers. Here, we will focus on one of such journals: La Enseñanza Racional. This journal was published in 1888, during a period when many such journals were born (Esteban & López, 1992) and only 24 issues were printed. It contained sections devoted to geography, grammar, history, arithmetics, etc. In particular, we are interested in the arithmetic section. This section appeared in 20 numbers and it contained theoretical explanations, worked out examples and proposed exercises (with or without solutions). Moreover, the contents were divided according to the degree (first, second or third) of the students. In this paper, we will describe and analyze the arithmetic section of La Enseñanza Racional. This will give us an idea of the pedagogical ideas of its author as well as of the situation of arithmetic teaching at the time. Even if this is a very particular case, it constitutes an interesting example of how the ideas of the so-called "regenerationism" (which tried to reform and modernize the country) were received and, in some sense, put into practice in the field of education. Adrover, J., Vallespir, J. & Villalonga, LL. (1986).

Regeneracionisme i educació a Menorca: aproximació a l'ideari pedagògic de Joan Benejam. *Educació i Cultura: revista mallorquina de Pedagogía*, 5-6, 127-143. Esteban, L. & López, R. (1992). La prensa pedagógica en su devenir histórico (antecedentes de la *Revista Española de Pedagogía*). *Revista Española de Pedagogía*, 50, 217-256.