

## VIII. MENTAL CALCULATION

All abacus experts can calculate mentally with miraculous rapidity. On an average they are twice as quick in mental calculation as on the abacus. It is possible for anyone to attain astonishing rapidity in such mental calculation by proper practice. The secret lies in applying abacus calculation to mental arithmetic by visualizing abacus manipulation.

Here are the vital points:

- 1) For example in adding 24 to 76 close your eyes and visualize the beads of an abacus set to 76. Then mentally add 24 onto the beads, aiding your visualization of the abacus by flicking the index finger and thumb of your right hand as if really calculating on an abacus.
- 2) When adding a series of numbers, say,  $24 + 76 + 62 + 50$  aid your memory by folding one of your left fingers each time the sum has come up to 100.
- 3) At first, practice the addition of numbers of two or more digits which come up to a round sum, for example,  $76 + 24$ , or  $222 + 555 + 223$ , and the like.
- 4) Remember, practicing a few minutes at a time for many days is worth more than practicing hours on a single day.