

transformed into algebraic equations admitting of easy solution of r , ρ , its velocity and acceleration. This equation has been found to be of the seventh degree or of the eighth if the always existing root ρ equal zero be included. My equation for three bodies, that is, for the solution of orbits of disturbed bodies, is of the twenty-eighth degree and admits at most of three solutions, the examination of which makes it possible to decide whether a body is a satellite, planet, or comet, in cases where the physical appearance of the object does not settle this question in advance.

In spite of the extensive investigations that have been made on the orbit problem there is room for much improvement both in theory and in practise, improvement which can not fail to come through proper cooperation of astronomers and mathematicians.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THIRD INTERSTATE CEREAL CONFERENCE

AN executive committee, representing the U. S. Department of Agriculture and state experiment stations, has called a third interstate cereal conference to be held at Kansas City, Coates Hotel, June 12-14. This conference, which has the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and the directors of the state stations, is for the purpose of discussing questions involved in and work essential to accomplish the enlargement of cereal production and the economic utilization of cereals during the existing war emergency. In addition to the representatives of the institutions mentioned, the flour mills, grain inspection departments, grain dealers and manufacturers of cereal foods and corn products of the grain states are invited to send delegates. Some of the subjects to be discussed are:

Agricultural War Measures in Kansas.
Waste in Cereal Production on the Farm.
The Importance of Good Seed.
The Proportion of Flour and By-products in Milling.

The Preparation of Land for Wheat.
The Use of Barley as a Food.
Corn as a War Crop.
Treatment of Seed Grain for the Prevention of Smuts.
Analysis of the World's Wheat Supply.
The Importance of Grain Sorghums.
Federal Standards for the Grading of Wheat.
Weed Seeds in Relation to Grain Grading.
The Importance of Testing Spring Wheat for Germination.
The Next Step in Improvement in Wheat Cropping.
The Work of Committee on Seed Stocks, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The delegates to the conference are invited to Manhattan, Kansas, on June 15, to inspect the cereal field work of the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station.

CHARLES E. CHAMBLISS,
Secretary

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE SOCIETY OF INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS

THE Society of Industrial Engineers, a national organization, the membership of which is to comprise men and women who are industrial engineers, professional technical engineers, accountants, managing executives of commercial and industrial activity, writers, educators and students, was planned in Chicago on May 26. The Society will be permanently organized in Washington, on June 15, on which date the directors have been called to meet.

Charles Buxton Going, for twenty years editor of the *Engineering Magazine*, New York, was chosen provisional President and *pro tem* chairman of the board of directors which was chosen at the session. This board, comprising 15 prominent men from various sections of the United States, the majority of whom have accepted, includes:

Charles Buxton Going, New York; C. E. Knoeppel, industrial engineer and organization counsel, New York; Frank B. Gilbreth, industrial engineer, Providence, R. I.; E. C. Shaw, vice-president The B. F. Goodrich Co., Akron, Ohio; Harrington Emerson, industrial engineer, New York; Charles Piez, president