

SCIENCE

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A COMMON-SENSE CALENDAR

OUR present Calendar is merely a rough tool. We can readily calculate dates inside of each month, and with some figuring we can reckon a month or two ahead. But when we are called upon to connect the proper week-day with some date more than two months ahead or behind, scarcely one of us can perform the operation without reference to a calendar. Current-year calendars are generally accessible, but it is no easy matter to ferret out old dates. It is even more difficult to determine dates in future years. In short, our measuring scale for dates is faulty. Like the Roman numerals it is unsuited for any but the simplest problems.

Who, for example, can find out for himself on what day of the week he was born? On what day of the week was the Declaration of Independence signed, or the Battle of Waterloo fought?

If your lease expires October 1 (or May 1), and you have to move, in what part of the week will this happen? If you have a regular engagement the first Monday of each month, will it conflict with another engagement on the third of next month or the month after? What months this year have five Sundays? How many annoying mistakes have you made during your life in such calculations?

If a ninety-day note or a three-month note is to be paid, on what day of the week is it due? Some quarters are longer than others, making the exact reckoning of interest difficult. Weekly periods of earnings in one year are not exactly comparable with the corresponding periods in other years. Holidays, like interest days, fall on different week-days in different years—sometimes very awkwardly.

The lopsidedness of our calendar is due to the Emperor Augustus, who insisted that his month should contain as many days as the month of Julius Cæsar. As a matter of his-