For dates in the Julian (Old Style) calendar the formula is

$$(Y + 4C + L + M + D + 5)/7 = Q + E/7,$$

in which the various symbols have the same meanings as above.

Examples:	Oct. 12, 1492	Feb. 11, 1732	July 4, 1920
$Y=$	1492	1732	1920
$4C=$	56	68	76
$L=$	23	7	5
$M=$	0	3	6
$D=$	12	11	4
	5	5	5
	7)1588	7)1826	7)2016
	$226\frac{6}{7}$	$260\frac{6}{7}$	$288\frac{0}{7}$
$R=$	6=Fri.	6=Fri.	0=Sat.

W. J. Spillman

ORIGIN OF THE SUPPOSED HUMAN FOOTPRINTS OF CARSON CITY, NEVADA

During the summer of 1919 the writer found occasion to visit Carson City, Nevada, and, through courtesy of members of the prison staff at the Nevada State Penitentiary, was enabled to examine a number of specimens of fossil mammals collected in the prison yard during past quarrying operations for building stone. In the material preserved in the collections were fragments of a skull and a cervical vertebra belonging to a ground sloth. Warden R. B. Henrichs, of the Nevada prison, was kind enough to loan the remains recovered during the excavations to the department of paleontology, University of California, and further study indicates that the ground sloth specimens pertain to an individual of the genus *Mylodon.*

Many years ago the discovery of footprints, bearing a superficial resemblance to imprints made by a human foot, in a shale stratum exposed in the yard of the penitentiary at Carson City, gave rise to the view that the existence of primeval man in Nevada was definitely established—a view that has taken a particularly tenacious hold. The possibility that the footprints were in reality those of a ground sloth, presumably of a form related to the South American *Mylodon,* was, however, advocated by Joseph Le Conte,[1] O. C. Marsh[2] and others. In 1917, the writer[3] contrasted the outline of the so-called human footprints with that of a complete hind foot of *Mylodon harlani* reconstructed from remains of this species secured in the asphalt deposits at Rancho La Brea. The great resemblance which the articulated foot bore to the impressions, both in outline and in size, seemed certain proof that the latter were left by *Mylodon.*

The actual occurrence of osseous remains of *Mylodon* in the Pleistocene deposits at Carson City, Nevada, removes still farther the possibility that the Carson footprints are to be attributed to a member of the Hominidæ and materially substantiates the suggestions of Le Conte and Marsh. Further, the presence of material referable to a mylodont sloth gives a high degree of probability to the contention that the footprints were made by *Mylodon* rather than by some other quadruped.

Chester Stock
University of California

SCIENTIFIC PHOTOGRAPHY

To the Editor of Science: The Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain is holding its sixty-fifth annual exhibition in September and October of this year. This is the most representative exhibition of photographic work in the world, and the section sent by American scientific men heretofore has sufficiently demonstrated the place held by this country in applied photography. It is very desirable that American scientific photography should be equally well represented in 1920, and, in order to enable this to be done with as little difficulty as possible, I have arranged to collect and forward American work intended for the scientific section.

This work should consist of prints showing the use of photography for scientific purposes and its application to spectroscopy, astronomy,

[1] Le Conte, J., *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.,* 10 pp., August 27, 1882.

[2] Marsh, O. C., *Amer. Jour. Sci.,* Ser. 3, Vol. 26, pp. 139–140, 1883.

[3] Stock, C., Univ. Calif. Publ. Bull. Dept. Geol., Vol. 10, pp. 284–285, 1917.

radiography, biology, etc. Photographs should reach me not later than Thursday, July 1. They should be mounted but not framed.

I should be glad if any worker who is able to send photographs will communicate with me as soon as possible so that I might arrange for the receiving and entry of the exhibit.

A. J. NEWTON

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY,
ROCHESTER, N. Y.,

QUOTATIONS

COMPETITION IN RESEARCH

THE resignation of Professor Ernest Fox Nichols from the department of physics at Yale University in order to continue his research work upon a larger scale in the Nela Research Laboratories of the National Lamp Works at Cleveland, offers a new impression of the possible utilization of professional talent. Professor Nichols resigned the presidency of Dartmouth College to come to Yale where there was a greater promise of his continuing his scientific work, and now leaves Yale to enter the employ of a private corporation whose opportunities for scientific work on a much enlarged scale are even greater.

The loss to Yale of the fine influence of Dr. Nichols' personality is obvious. That is something to be deeply regretted but, taking him as a type of trained scientists, whether the withdrawal of such men from the universities of the country and their employment by large corporations whose interest in scientific research is more direct is to the common disadvantage may seriously be questioned. The limitations which are necessarily set upon work of this character even in the best equipped of university laboratories disappear in corporations where no limitations are set when the importance of the end sought is realized. In the case of Dr. Nichols the work which he wishes to accomplish has such great importance in its actual accomplishment that his transfer must be considered as of greater general advantage because it may be accomplished the earlier under private rather than under university encouragement. The theoretical disadvantage which results to the university is in all likelihood offset by the practical advantage to be commonly gained.

Speculation is here invited as to what the effect will be upon the teaching force of a university if the labor of research work of a scientific character is to be taken over by private corporations. We might imagine affirmative and the negative coming to blows over this thesis at least until the lessons of experience have been written into the record. —*The New Haven Journal-Courier.*

A NEW STATISTICAL JOURNAL

THERE has recently been founded a new international statistical journal called *Metron.* It is published at Padua, Italy, at a subscription price of 40 lire per year. The printer, where subscriptions should be sent, is the *Tipografia Industrie grafiche Italiane,* Via Viscovado, Padova, Italy. The journal will appear quarterly, each number comprising 150 to 200 pages.

The founder and chief editor of *Metron* is Professor Corrado Gini, of the University of Padua. The fact that so brilliant and sound a worker as Professor Gini is to be in charge at once guarantees the scientific standing of the journal in the statistical field. An international editorial board has been formed, which now includes the following persons:

Professor A. Andreadès, de science des finances a l'Université de Athenes (Greece),

Professor A. E. Bunge, directeur de la Statistique de la Republique Argentine, Buenos Ayres (Argentine),

Dr. F. P. Cantelli, actuaire au Ministere du Tresor, Rome (Italy),

Dr. L. V. Furlan, libre docent de statistique a l'Université de Bâle (Switzerland),

Dr. M. Greenwood, reader of medical statistics in the University of London; statistician of the Lister Institute, London (England),

Dr. A. Julin, directeur de la Statistique economique de la Belgique Ministère de l'Industrie et du Travail, Bruxelles (Belgium),

Dr. G. H. Knibbs, directeur de la Statistique de la confederation australienne, Melbourne (Australia),

Ing. L. March, directeur de la Statistique générale de la France, Paris (France),