

$[1000000D + 900000 + 10(Y - r) + r] \div 7$ , remainder  $w$ , for September,  
and  $[1000000D + 200000 + 10(Y - r) + r] \div 7$ , remainder  $w$ , for December.

If you want to know the week-day of a date before Christ, you have to subtract the year from 7001; then you treat the remainder like a year after Christ. Why have you to subtract the given year from 7001 and not from 7000? In the Julian Calendar the same week-days come back on the same dates within 28 years, a fortiori within 7000 years. But the historians drop the year 0 in the numeration of the years, putting the year  $-1$  immediately before the year  $+1$ . Astronomers call the year 1 B.C. of the historians the year 0, and the year 2 B.C. the year  $-1$ .

The emperor Augustus was born in the year 63 B.C., or in the year  $-62$  of the astronomers.  $2000 - 62 = 1938$ . Mussolini celebrated the anniversary of 2000 years in 1937 instead of 1938. Augustus was born on September 23rd 63 B.C.  $7001 - 63 = 6938$ ;  $23969362 \div 7$ , remainder 4, Wednesday.

Cicero died 43 B.C., i.e.  $-42$  of astronomical numeration. The teachers of many grammar-schools celebrated the anniversary in 1957 instead of 1958, which might be forgiven to philologists. But none of the mathematicians in the same schools protested, a token that mathematical chronology is not much cultivated.

A very remote date is the beginning of the Jewish Calendar on Monday the 7th October 3761 B.C.  $7001 - 3761 = 3240$ ;  $37932400 \div 7$ , remainder 2.

*Walchsee, Tyrol.*

J. M.

## CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of the *Mathematical Gazette*

DEAR SIR,—The headmaster and the mathematics staff of this school have read with considerable interest the text of W. J. Langford's presidential address to the Mathematical Association which appeared in the October issue of the *Mathematical Gazette*.

W. J. Langford's plea for the coordination of the work done in mathematics in the later years of the primary schools with that done in the first year courses in secondary schools appeared in print at the very time when we were making our own humble efforts to "bridge the gap".

Some months ago my headmaster, Mr. K. Allan, and I spent a morning in a local primary school watching the pupils doing English and mathematics. Shortly afterwards my headmaster decided to invite the headmasters and staffs of all the primary schools in this area to discuss with our staff the teaching of English and mathematics.

A mathematical discussion has just taken place and it was tremendously enlightening. The mathematics staff of this school are very grateful for the information they received concerning the methods and syllabuses of the primary schools, and I am sure that if others would follow this example they would be immensely pleased with the results.

Yours faithfully, A. SMITH

*The Grammar School, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire*

An amateur interested in number theory and cosmogony would like to correspond with a fellow enthusiast.

Please write to B. EGERTON  
The Manor House  
Ringwood, Hants.