

system which it was intended to replace. The day was divided by a decimal system, similar to that which is said to have been used in China 2,000 years ago. The year was divided into 12 months of 30 days each after the method of the ancient Egyptians, five supplementary days being added to complete the ordinary year. A 366th day was added to the year "whenever the position of the equinoxes required it." The month was divided into three periods of 10 days each, and the tenth day was set apart for rest. A period of four years was adopted and called a Franciad, corresponding with the Greek Olympiad. Most of these changes appear to have been due to a spirit of revolt against existing institutions, rather than to any true desire for reform. This calendar perished with the first Republic.

Whereas the day and year are clearly based on the motions of the Earth, the month doubtless had its origin in the Moon's changes, for we find that in almost all countries 29 or 30 days were made either singly or alternately the length of the month, and this corresponds very nearly with 29.530586805 days, which is the average period of one synodic lunar revolution. But while the day, the month, and the year, are the only time divisions which have any astronomical significance, the week of seven days cannot be ignored in any calendar adapted to modern use. Such a period has its sanction in a far higher realm than that of astronomical motions, namely, its convenience and usefulness to humanity. Not only the Sabbath but the whole week has apparently been "made for man."

Many theories have been advanced to explain the origin of the week. It is claimed by some that it derived its origin from the fact that it is approximately one-fourth of the period occupied by one lunation. This is doubtful, especially as there has never been any attempt made to vary the length of the several weeks of a month, by intercalation or otherwise, in order to make four weeks exactly correspond with one month, a result which could have been accomplished with far greater advantage than many so-called reforms have secured by a greater expenditure of ingenuity and with equally important disadvantages. Others are convinced that the week is accounted for by a series of facts in connection with ancient Astronomy and Astrology. The facts are these: There were seven so-called planets known to the ancients. These were named in the old Egyptian papyri in the follow-