

METHODS SUGGESTED TO PROVIDE SIMPLER MONTHS.

Various suggestions have been made to bring simpler and more equal months into use, and as nearly all plan the repetition of the week-days and data order of January, February and March in each succeeding three months of the year, we may most easily consider the respective advantages and disadvantages of the four most typical methods, A, B, C, and D, if we concentrate attention upon these three months, bearing in mind that no January has 31 days, February 28, and March 31, and that the proposed months by methods A, B, and C would be exactly repeated in triplets after January February March
as April May June
July August September
October November December

Method D provides for the insertion of a new month of four weeks between June and July.

All the four methods provide for the "odd day of the year" as a "Dies-non" and public holiday, also for "leap-day" as a summer holiday.

The "Dies-non" is suggested as "Christmas Day" in both methods A and D; whilst B proposes it as "New Year's Day," and C reserves it as the "last day of the year."

They all rightly begin the year with Sunday and are planned to provide a fixed calendar for permanently locating equal quarterly and half-yearly terms and give *fixity of dates* for law, university, and school terms, statutory meetings for public authorities, markets, fairs, local festivals, and other anniversaries, such as the Royal birthdays and our own occurring on their respective permanent week-days for their particular dates each year — whilst D further provides for the desired convenience of *fixed Easters* and their contingent festivals, and *four fixed dates in every month for each week-day*. They offer those many practical advantages over the shifting system we have been content to use, because we did not know any better, until recently some people dared to think improvements could be made.

The table for comparison of methods A, B, C, and D, records in the heading their proposed sub-divisions of the year, and below each bold indicator letter in the front column details the method by which the days in each three months opposite are proposed to be apportioned. We will now proceed to consider the merits of each.

The fixity of the week-day names and dates to be repeated each three months being arranged for by all the methods, leads to the first and highly important consideration of the convenient working of the weeks within the three repeating lengths of months, which