

THE ABSTRACT GROUP  $G$  SIMPLY ISOMORPHIC  
WITH THE ALTERNATING GROUP ON  
SIX LETTERS.

BY PROFESSOR L. E. DICKSON.

(Read before the American Mathematical Society, December 29, 1902.)

1. A SLIGHT correction of a theorem due to De Séguier\* leads to the result that  $G$  is generated by three operators  $a, b, c$ , subject only to the relations

$$\begin{aligned} (1) \quad & a^2 = I, \quad b^4 = I, \quad c^3 = I, \quad (ac)^3 = I, \\ (2) \quad & (ab^{-1}ab)^3 = I, \quad (ab^{-2}ab^2)^2 = I, \\ (3) \quad & (cb^{-1}ab)^2 = I, \quad (cb^{-2}ab^2)^2 = I. \end{aligned}$$

But these generators are not independent, since

$$(4) \quad a = cb^{-1}cbe.$$

A simple verification of (4) results from the correspondence

$$a \sim (12)(34), \quad b \sim (12)(3456), \quad c \sim (123)$$

between the generators of the simply isomorphic groups.

It is shown in this section that  $G$  is generated by the two operators  $b$  and  $c$ , subject to the complete set of generational relations

$$(5) \quad b^4 = I, \quad c^3 = I, \quad (b^{-1}cbc^{-1})^2 = I, \quad (b^2c)^4 = I.$$

These relations follow from (1), (2), (3); for, by the above correspondence,  $b^{-1}cbc^{-1} \sim (14)(23)$ ,  $b^2c \sim (1235)(46)$ .

If  $a$  be defined by (4), relations (1), (2), (3) follow from (5).

$$\begin{aligned} a^2 &= cb^{-1}cbc^{-1}b^{-1}cbc = c(b^{-1}cbc^{-1})^2c^{-1} = I, \\ (ac)^3 &= cb^{-1}c^3bc^{-1} = I. \end{aligned}$$

---

\**Journal de Math.*, 1902, p. 262. For  $y=2, \dots, n-3$  in his formula (6), should stand  $y=1, \dots, n-4$ .