20th September, 1954.

Dear Mr. Webster,

I have your note of September 15th and of course there has been a great deal written one way and another on oscillations in a large variety of subjects.

In respect to the computational methods, I suppose the chief authorities are Sir Richard Southwell and the late Dr. L. F. Richardson of Paisley.

So far as mathematics are concerned, the usual source is the state of latent roots of a matrix representing the force of restitution when an equilibrium is disturbed, or, outside mechanics, some similar situation. In Genetics we get this generally in inbreeding problems, though here the roots are often real, giving a damped approach to the final form without oscillation.

I should guess that dynamical works for engineers and engineering students would treat the subject pretty fully.

Sincerely yours,