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[Continued from page 292.]

The total number of distinct arrangements of the N groups combined is obtained by summing the expression in (7) over all possible values of $\left(k_{1}, k_{2}\right.$, $\ldots, k_{N-1}$, i.e., over the set $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{N}-1}$. But the total number of distinct arrangements is also equal to

$$
G\left(\sum_{j=1}^{N} M_{j}\right)
$$

The identity in (3) then follows from $G(n)=F(n+1)$.

