

174.

ON THE OVAL OF DESCARTES.

[From the *Quarterly Mathematical Journal*, vol. I. (1857), pp. 320—328.]

THIS is an extract of the passage in the Geometry (La Géométrie de M. Descartes, 12° Paris, 1705, pp. 79—92) in which he applies his method of coordinates to this now well-known curve: the marginal reference is “Explication de quatre nouveaux genres d’Ovales qui servent à l’Optique.” The paper was intended to be introductory to a discussion in some detail of the history and properties of the Curve, but no continuation was written.