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Une propriété des surfaces rationnelles. (French. English, French summaries) [A property of rational surfaces]

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The main theorem is as follows. For every complex algebraic projective rational surface M there exist two birational morphisms $S \to M$, $S \to \mathbf{P}^2$, of which the second one is a blowup of a finite set of distinct points belonging to $\mathbf{P}^2$. The authors deduce the theorem from a theory of Cremona reductions of plane foliations [M. M. Carnicer, in *Singularity theory (Trieste, 1991)*, 153–172, World Sci. Publishing, River Edge, NJ, 1995; MR1378398 (97c:32040)].

{Reviewer's remarks: During the school year 1898/1899, E. Bertini gave lectures at the University of Pisa, which were published [*Introduction to the projective geometry of hyperspaces, with an appendix on algebraic curves and their singularities* (Italian), E. Spoerri, Pisa, 1907; JFM 38.0582.02]. The second edition appeared in 1923, and a German translation in 1924. In the appendix mentioned in the title, Bertini proved that any linear system of plane curves is transformable with the help of a Cremona transformation into a linear system having only ordinary base points; moreover, he wrote in 15:3 that every projective rational surface determines a family of linear systems of plane curves and that systems of the family are Cremona equivalent. The authors only mention that A. Beauville also obtained a proof of their theorem.}

Reviewed by *M. Kh. Gizatullin*