this laboratory successfully is merely printing or writing the necessary description upon the slide with India ink. "Higgin's Waterproof (Black) India Ink," such as is sold at all book and stationery stores, is the ink used; a crow-quill drawing pen completes the outfit. The only necessary precaution to take in its application is to have the writing surface free from oily matter. This is removed simply by breathing on the slide and wiping briskly with a dry cloth.

The label so made is permanent as far as ordinary treatment is concerned. Xylol may be used freely to dissolve any cedar oil or balsam on the mount, with no injury whatever to the label; only a prolonged soaking in water would impair its permanence and such an occurrence would only be accidental.

This form of label has the advantage over that of the etched surface in that it may be as easily removed as applied; the whole label or portions may be changed by removing the unnecessary word, letters or figures with a penknife when the ink is thoroughly dry, or the whole label may be removed by rubbing off with a damp cloth. The India ink label because of its nature is more easily read than any other form of label.

A trial of this method will convince any one of its practical value.

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THE METRIC SYSTEM

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The attention of the writer was attracted to an article in a recent number of SCIENCE by A. H. Patterson, of Chapel Hill, N. C., in which he refers to the "wickedly brain-destroying piece of bondage under which we suffer" on account of the system of weights and measures in common use among the American people.

The only thing that the present system has to commend it to general use, if it has any redeeming quality at all, is that it is easier to follow along a beaten path than to make a change for the better.

The metric system is a simple, sensible, scientific and easily operated system of units and the best system that has ever been devised. That the metric system is practicable has been effectively demonstrated, for it is the universal system of scientific laboratories and it is high time that a strong public sentiment be created in favor of its general adoption. No doubt "a great part of the under-weight and false-measure frauds are due to our confused system of units."

It seems that the chief arguments against the adoption of the metric system are: first, the expense to manufacturers and commercial houses in connection with making the change; and second, the difficulty that would be encountered in educating the employers up to a new system. In the opinion of the writer neither of these difficulties is as serious as some people would try to have us believe and it is chiefly "selfish interests which are blocking the way of reform."

The cooperation of all scientists, the various reform leagues, the government bureaus and as many others as possible should be enlisted for the passage of the bill in favor of the metric system at as early a date as possible.

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THE YELLOWSTONE PARK

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I have tramped, with knapsack and sleeping bag, more than a thousand miles through the wildest and roughest parts of the Rocky Mountains, camping out in the cheapest and most primitive fashion; and every one will understand, I think, that it is not as a molly-coddle that I say, from my experience during the summer of 1911, that the bear in Yellowstone Park are an outrageous nuisance.

I know of no more flagrant example of detached, red-taped sophistry than this: "A few instances are on record where people have been attacked and injured by bears" but "in all cases where the facts were known the person injured was more or less to blame."[1] In

[1] See letter of Jesse L. Smith in SCIENCE of June 20.