

AFTER due consideration of a number of proposals for the alteration of the British system of weights and measures, such as the compulsory adoption of the metric system and the decimalization of the existing weights and measures, the British trade committee has decided against any compulsory changes at the present juncture, but recommends a continuation of the efforts toward simplification in the teaching of weights and measures and the use of decimal subdivision of basic weights, such as the cental of 100 pounds instead of the hundredweight (112 pounds) and the short ton of 2,000 pounds. The committee recognizes the value of the proposal for the decimalization of the sovereign, which would be divided into 1,000 mils, the mil being worth 4 per cent. less than the farthing. It believes, however, that considering "the magnitude of the disturbance which the alteration in the value of the penny would cause in the lives of the great body of wage earners, retail shopkeepers and their customers . . . the introduction of such a change would be inexpedient at a time when the social, industrial and financial organization of the country will be faced with numerous and exceptional difficulties."

THE second reading of the British Coinage (Decimal System) Bill was moved by Lord Southwark in the House of Lords on June 4. Lord Leverhulme opposed the motion, though he was not against the principle of decimal coinage. He objected to making the sovereign the unit and dividing it into one thousand parts, and he thought that a British decimal system of coinage should be based upon the halfpenny. After discussion, the debate was adjourned on the understanding that the government will institute an inquiry into the whole question of decimal coinage, including the proposals contained in Lord Southwark's bill.

THE Bureau of Mines announces the perfection of a type of electric melting furnace that may be revolutionary in the making of brass. Patents on this furnace, known as the rocking electric furnace, have been taken out by the bureau and have been assigned to Secretary Lane as trustee. Free licenses to ope-

rate these furnaces under the patents, it is understood, can be obtained by making application through Van. H. Manning, director of the Bureau of Mines. The new furnace, which it is claimed will reduce the important losses in brass melting, is the result of five years' experimentation by H. W. Gillett, chemist of the Bureau of Mines, in cooperation with the laboratory of Cornell University, the American Institute of Metals, and a number of manufacturers of brass.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of the late Lord Rhondda the governing body of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, will receive out of the residue of his estate the sum of £20,000, to be applied at its discretion for the benefit of the college, but preferably in the establishment and maintenance of six to ten scholarships tenable at the college for mathematics, natural science, or moral science (including economics), preference being given, *ceteris paribus*, in the awarding of such scholarships to residents or sons of residents in Wales or Monmouthshire.

A. H. BENTON, assistant professor of farm management, at the University of Minnesota, has accepted a position as professor and chief of the division of farm management and rural economics at the Manitoba Agricultural College.

A. B. COBLE, associate professor of mathematics in Johns Hopkins University, has accepted a professorship of mathematics in the University of Illinois to begin work in September.

DR. AVEN NELSON has been appointed president of the University of Wyoming.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE PSEUDO-PSYCHOLOGY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Through no fault of their own, not a few instructors of elementary psychology to my knowledge spend many an arduous hour trying to indicate to indiscriminating minds both what psychology