cern these days, will be improved if we follow the same rules as nonscientists who spend someone else's money?

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I did not overestimate the cost of the recent changes in NIH procedure. There are about 15,000 NIH grants presently in effect, each involving from one to many scientists—amounting to a total of perhaps as many as 50,000 persons.

When scientists are highly irritated by extraneous annoyances, they stop functioning creatively. Some days usually elapse before the normal rate of progress is resumed following a bout of paper work.—P.H.A.

Reporting Oceanographic Data

In a story about pirates and treasures, it is fascinating and quaint to hear about knots and fathoms. In a journal, however, whose readership overwhelmingly does not belong to the class of old tars and salts, one might expect the use of kilometers, meters, and where necessary, centimeters.

In the 15 February issue of *Science*, I read with interest three articles on oceanographic topics. One dealt with oceanographic experience and expressed the depth of water in meters and distances in kilometers; the second on uplifted islands, described distances in kilometers, and thickness of sediments in meters; the third, however, in a discussion of ripple marks in the Florida Straits, recorded the flow of water in knots, distances in miles, depth in fathoms, and heights and lengths in feet and inches.

I am a chemist. Those who plied my trade before me used the impressive units of stones, grains, and other quaint weights. Some time ago a switch was made to the cgs system. Why do not others, writing in *Science*, make the same switch? If great hardship should be involved, knots and fathoms could still be added in parentheses.

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The Ninth Eastern Pacific Oceanic Conference adopted a resolution urging authors and editors to use metric units and the Celsius scale in reports on oceanographic research. We shall follow this suggestion—EDS.