may be in short supply during the daytime, the accelerator may have to be operated at night only. (If so, tourists could visit the accelerator during the day, and the entrance fees charged might pay a significant fraction of the operating cost.)

When repair work must be performed in the circular tunnel, which would soon become highly radioactive, accelerator engineers would fill the entire tunnel with sea water. Mechanics employing aqualungs or diving suits could then work in complete safety.

A separately constructed central area of the assembly would contain machine shops, special power supplies, a large control room, administrative headquarters, and also a kind of motel (with parking for helicopters rather than cars) for the crew of approximately 1000 engineers and technicians. Recreation facilities would include a movie theater, squash courts, swimming pools, and a specially stocked fishing pool.

The plan circumvents rivalry from groups in different parts of the country. (The possibility of building the quadrants in smaller units that could pass through the St. Lawrence Seaway and be assembled in Lake Erie or Lake Michigan has not been ruled out.) Also, four different parts of the country could be given contracts for building the four arc-shaped platforms. (Already, a bid has been received from a Japanese shipbuilding firm experienced in building supertankers.) Since these four quadrants—and the linac structure and the experimental hall structures—could be built simultaneously in different shipyards, as much as 2 years could be saved relative to the time needed to construct a fixed synchrotron.

Only in the last few weeks has the last and thorniest problem been solved: the problem of radiation beamed toward a particular part of the city adjacent to the harbor in question. If an emergent beam were aimed toward a certain portion of the city, persons living there would receive, during a typical month, five or ten times the permissible dose (from muons, which are fundamentally aquatic and can travel freely in water). The solution is to mount a 5-hp outboard motor tangentially at the outer edge of the platform and keep the motor running continuously, so as to rotate the entire accelerator at the rate of one revolution per week and thus distribute the radiation uniformly along the entire harbor-front. The direction of rotation will be the same as that of the protons in the accelerator, so as to add to their speed; even a slight increase is significant if the particles are already traveling at a speed almost equal to that of light.

WILLIAM A. SHURCLIFF
Underwater Consultant, CECU, 42 Oxford Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Metric System: Easy Conversions

Anyone who did not read Manuel Mateos' letter (24 Sept., p. 1450) missed an important proposal. Mateos suggests a "metricized British system" whereby our quart and pound would be made slightly larger, thus making the new "metric quart" equal to 1 liter and the "metric pound" to 1/2 kilogram; the inch would become a bit shorter, so that 1 "metric inch" would equal 25 millimeters and 40 "metric inches"—1 "metric yard"—would be 1 meter.

This would be an easy way to make the metric system more acceptable to the general public. More important, however, for those of us who are not interested in the precise conversion when reading (or writing) articles using metric units, it is an ideal method of beginning to think in these equivalent units without constantly referring to conversion factors.

R. G. PETERSEN
U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, 211 Congress Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Psychologists' Title

In the recent exchange of letters about degrees and titles, Wiesinger (10 Sept., p. 1174) writes that "it is not good form in English for a Ph.D. . . . to refer to himself as Dr. . . ." It should be noted that the clinical psychologist, who is a Ph.D., cannot function professionally without referring to himself as "Dr." If he calls himself "Mr." he is respected by neither his physician colleagues nor his patients. This poses a special problem for psychologists who work simultaneously in clinical and academic settings.

JOHN G. WATKINS
Department of Psychology, University of Montana, Missoula