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puses, it seems to me even more important than before that a comprehensive and careful examination of this entire phenomenon be initiated. Indeed, it is unfortunate that we don't now have more knowledge than noise, and more reason than rhetoric. When we reach that constructive stage, all liberalism—creaking, rusting, and otherwise—will be better served.

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### Lebensraum: A Correction

Dumey's remarks (Letters, 6 Dec.) on the 400-meter separation between people are correct. Unfortunately, one part of the text of my article was missing when given for publication. The paragraph in "Man's movement and his city" (18 Oct.), p. 331, col. 1, para. 1, line 8 should read, "The theoretical distance between any two persons on the earth's surface, if the whole population is spread evenly over the habitable land is 114 meters, over the whole land area is 210 meters, and over the whole surface of the earth is 400 meters."

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### Czech Christmas Greeting

At Christmas and New Year's we all send and receive seasons greetings more or less mechanically because it is traditional and we want to be polite. We glance at the cards we receive but rarely read the standard printed message. One which I *did* read this past season was the message of the members of the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and I was struck with admiration for their selection of a greeting to their friends this year. It was written 300 years ago by J. A. Comenius who declared that man's love for liberty "can by no means be driven out." Yet there were powers in 1968 who refused to accept that truth! The Czech greeting quoted Comenius as follows (1):

13 The more powerful people then betook themselves to another method of assuaging the strife of men: they sought by attacking whole nations and subduing and re-

ducing them to subjection, to establish whether in the state or in the realm of religion a single order or rule which should embrace them all; but always, as unvarying experience proves, rather with the effect of making things worse than with any good result. For there is inborn in human nature a love of liberty—for liberty man's mind is convinced that it was made—and this love can by no means be driven out: so that, wherever and by whatever means it feels that it is being hemmed in and impeded, it cannot but seek a way out and declare its own liberty. Inevitably resistance, opposition, rebellion follow whenever force becomes an element in the government of men.

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### Reference

1. J. A. Comenius, *The Way of Light* (Amsterdam, 1668).

### Progress in Metric Conversion

The concept that international conversion to the metric system is a worthy pursuit deserves support (Weber, Letters, 29 Nov.). The efforts of relevant U.S. agencies, including the National Bureau of Standards, to obtain conversion were discussed earlier by Wolfe in his editorial ("Adoption of the metric system," 9 July 1965, p. 139).

This research unit in the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene has found conversion to the metric system to be feasible and has been using it for at least 2 years. The Vincent Astor Diagnostic Service was recording height in centimeters and weight in kilograms as of July 1965, and as of September 1965, the New York Hospital, New York, was employing the metric system for weight, height, and temperature recording. A survey of public and private institutions in the fall of that year indicated that these units were converting from a mixture of pounds and inches to metric measurements of weight, height, and temperature of patients. What has been transpiring since then we do not know. Our own experience has been that the metric system is highly desirable for research. Finally, it is apparently not generally recognized that scales are available for measuring height in centimeters and weight in kilograms, and thermometers for measuring in the metric Celsius system.

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