

SCIENCE

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: S. NEWCOMB, Mathematics; R. S. WOODWARD, Mechanics; E. C. PICKERING, Astronomy; T. C. MENDENHALL, Physics; R. H. THURSTON, Engineering; IRA REMSEN, Chemistry; J. LE CONTE, Geology; W. M. DAVIS, Physiography; O. C. MARSH, Paleontology; W. K. BROOKS, Invertebrate Zoölogy; C. HART MERRIAM, Vertebrate Zoölogy; S. H. SCUDDER, Entomology; N. L. BRITTON, Botany; HENRY F. OSBORN, General Biology; H. P. BOWDITCH, Physiology; J. S. BILLINGS, Hygiene; J. McKEEN CATTELL, Psychology; DANIEL G. BRINTON, J. W. POWELL, Anthropology; G. BROWN GOODE, Scientific Organization.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1896.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN REGARD TO
THE METRIC SYSTEM.

CONTENTS:

<i>Proposed Legislation in Regard to the Metric System</i>	457
<i>On the Reflection of the Röntgen Rays from Platinum:</i> OGDEN N. ROOD.....	463
<i>Further Experiments with X-Rays:</i> EDWIN B. FROST	465
<i>The Reception of Foreign Students in French Universities and Schools:</i> G. BROWN GOODE.....	467
<i>The Essence of Number:</i> GEORGE BRUCE HALSTED.....	470
<i>Robert Edward Earll:</i> G. BROWN GOODE.....	471
<i>Current Notes on Physiography:—</i> <i>The Study of Home Geography in Italy; The Danube; The Location of Settlements; Mittendorf's Peru:</i> W. M. DAVIS.....	472
<i>Scientific Notes and News:—</i> <i>Zoölogical Nomenclature; The Toronto Meeting of the British Association; Entomology; Astronomy:</i> H. J. General.....	474
<i>University and Educational News</i>	477
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i> <i>Experiments showing that the Röntgen Rays cannot be Polarized by Doubly Refracting Media:</i> ALFRED M. MAYER. <i>Color Vision and Light:</i> W. LE CONTE STEVENS. <i>The Philadelphia Brick Clays, et al.:</i> ROLLIN D. SALISBURY. <i>Primitive Habitations in Ohio:</i> WARREN K. MOOREHEAD. <i>Questions Regarding Habits and Instincts:</i> G. STANLEY HALL, R. R. GURLEY. <i>Newly Hatched Chickens Instinctively Drink:</i> HENRY W. ELLIOTT.....	478
<i>Scientific Literature:—</i> <i>Achelis' Moderne Völkerrunde; Chamberlain on The Child and Childhood in Folk-Thought:</i> D. G. BRINTON. <i>Turpin's Inorganic Chemistry; Williams' Chemical Experiments:</i> E. H. KEISER. <i>Nernst and Schönflies' Einführung in die mathematische Behandlung der Naturwissenschaften:</i> FERDINAND G. WIECHMANN.....	482
<i>Societies and Academies:—</i> <i>Biological Society of Washington:</i> F. A. LUCAS. <i>The Woman's Anthropological Society:</i> A. CARMAN. <i>The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia:</i> EDW. J. NOLAN. <i>New York Section of the Chemical Society:</i> DURAND WOODMAN. <i>Geological Conference of Harvard University:</i> T. A. JAGGAR, JR.....	486
<i>New Books</i>	492

WE have received from Professor J. K. Rees, Secretary of the American Metrological Society: (1) The Report submitted to the House of Representatives on March 16th, by Mr. Chas W. Stone, from the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures. (2) A copy of the bill reported unanimously by the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures of the House. (3) A letter addressed by the American Metrological Society to persons interested in the Metric System. (4) A petition form to be signed by any and all persons favoring the bill. The Secretary will be glad to supply copies of the petition to those who will obtain signatures. In order to keep a record of all signers, the Society requests that a duplicate list be sent to the office of the Society at Columbia University, New York.

INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSION OF THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY MR. STONE.

Almost the only power clearly and expressly vested in Congress by the Constitution which has remained practically unexercised to the present day is that of fixing the standard of weights and measures. This power is conferred in the fifth clause of Section VIII. of Article 1, which enumerates among the powers of Congress "to coin money, regulate the value thereof and of foreign coins, and fix the standard of