

used to identify members of the general population by a cytogenetic means.

We believe that more meaningful findings of physical defects will be obtained when extensive cytogenetic studies are performed on a large sampling of patients who possess those pathological features which are already recognized in XYY individuals.

WOLFGANG LEHRNBECHER

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Are, Not Acre

According to my Senator, some progress is being made in the United States Senate toward the passage of legislation which will replace the British system of weights and measures with the metric system. Although we are educating our legislators to the need for this legislation, three recent experiences I have had show that we need to get our scientific house in order: (i) Of 200 students in a general botany course, most of whom had taken a course in chemistry or physics, none of the Americans knew what a degree Celsius was, although all had heard of the degree centigrade. These students represented most of the 50 states. (ii) When I referred to "density of plants per *are*" in a manuscript submitted for publication, my spelling was "corrected" to read *acre* at every review, the last time in galley proof, even after I had defined the are, in parentheses, as (100 m²). (iii) In an article by a noted ecologist dedicated to the scientists attending the XIth International Botanical Congress, I found reference to a plateau of 26 million *square* hectares (reminiscent of the frequent references one sees of wind velocities in knots per hour).

Perhaps these annoyances are merely the result of confusion in trying to deal with two systems at one time and will disappear when we have adopted the metric system for daily use. A Swedish friend recalled the conversion to the metric system in his country as a time when housewives frequently requested a kilometer of butter or a gram of milk. . . .

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