

did not set the course of events on any new bearing."

Montague's appointment of the in-expert Newton can hardly be considered an exemplary instance of the "co-operation between politicians and intellectuals to solve a pressing social problem." Segal's pronouncement may even arouse indecorous mirth among the frivolous-minded who know Voltaire's scurrilous tale that the position was Montague's way of rewarding Newton for having so amiable a niece.

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References

1. J. Craig, *Newton at the Mint* (Cambridge Univ. Press, London, 1946).
2. Voltaire, "Dictionnaire philosophique" in *Oeuvres Complètes* (Imprimerie de la Société Littéraire-Typographique, Kehl, 1785), vol. 42, p. 165.

Ki'lo-me'ter

Some years ago, I noticed that a European friend pronounced the word for a thousand meters, ki'lo-me'ter, whereas I was pronouncing it, ki-lom'-e'ter'. I consulted my dictionary, *Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language* (Merriam-Webster, Springfield, Mass., ed. 2, 1950). It said that this word should be pronounced kil'o-me'ter, but sometimes pronounced ki-lom'e'ter' "by false analogy with" ba-rom'e-ter. Following this, I tried to correct my pronunciation of the word and succeeded in doing so.

Because many scientists are still using the second (erroneous) pronunciation, I again consulted a dictionary. *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* (1961) gives both pronunciations as acceptable. This is because we scientists have used the wrong pronunciation for many years, and, of course, the dictionary tries to keep up with us, or perhaps better to keep down with us. Should we then use the following pronunciations—mil-lim'e'ter', cen-tim'e'ter', ki-log'ram, ki-lov'olt, and so forth?

May I appeal to all my friends (if I have any friends after complaining about such details) to use the same pronunciations that are used in European countries.

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