The Metric System of lengths, weights, and measures of capacity, etc., introduced into France many years ago, and since adopted by many of the Continental governments, is based upon the idea of an unchangeable natural standard, the multiples and subdivisions of which follow in decimal progression.

By measuring an arc of the meridian, the distance from the equator to the pole — measured as along the surface of still water — was calculated: this was divided into ten million parts; and one of these parts was taken for the unit of length, and called a *metre*, from the Greek word μετρον (a measure).

The unit of *capacity*, both dry and liquid, is called a *litre*, and is a cubic measure of which the side is a tenth part of the metre.

The weight of the volume of distilled water at the greatest density (39°.29 Fah.) which this cubic measure can contain is called a *kilogram;* a thousandth part of which is made the unit of weight, and denominated a *gram*.

The units of length, superficies, solidity, and weight, are all correlative; two data only being used, — the metre, and the weight of the cube of water.

The multiples of these measures, proceeding in decimal progression, are marked by the prefixes, *deca*, *hecta*, *kilo*, *myria*, taken from the