

by impressing on the public mind the fact that traditional names and quantities need not be abandoned. In France, after more than a generation of struggle, the simple device was adopted of defining the livre as half a kilogram, and the work was done. To-day the word livre is constantly used all over France, but everybody knows that a livre is exactly 500 grams, or half of one kilogram. This step was taken in Germany before any general attempt was made to introduce the metric system. When the Zollverein was established, the pfund was made exactly equal to half a kilo, and thus the way was prepared for the rest of the metric system. In Germany the word pfund is invariably used in preference to halb-kilo. Certain English weights and measures approximate closely to convenient metric equivalents. The pound avoirdupois is very nearly equal to half a kilo, the cwt. to 50 kilos, the ton to 1,000 kilos. By introducing these names, we give the mind something to take hold of. "Metric pound" at once suggests a weight like a pound, whereas kilogram suggests nothing at all. Other links that might be used with advantage are: The metric inch (25 millimetres), the metric hand (10 centimetres), the metric chain (20 metres), the metric pint (one-half litre). Inasmuch as a decimal coinage exists in the United States and Canada, the introduction of the metric system of weights and measures into these countries is beset with less difficulty than in England. It would certainly facilitate the introduction of the metric system into North America if traditional names should receive a present legal value in legislation. For instance, a simple declaratory Act might be passed at the next session of the Canadian Parliament, providing that wherever the phrase metric pound is used in a contract of sale, it shall mean 500 grams, and so on. Who will start the ball rolling? We commend this reform to the careful consideration of our American cousins, hoping that they may be daring enough to cast aside the shackles of antiquity, and introduce a reform in English weights and measures, retaining at the same time some of the forms of the old-time usage.

Acidified Alcohol in the Treatment of Wounds which are Expected to Unite by the First Intention.—As the results of experiments made at the surgical clinic of Naples, Dr. Gaetano recommends acidified alcohol in the treatment of wounds in which union by the first intention is expected. The alcohol he uses has