distance is long, and we cannot deceive ourselves in the matter. It is little by little, foot by foot, that the uniform system will gain ground. The International Congresses are held at two great intervals of time, and their programmes besides are too overladen, for them to have on this reform anyth ng but a general influence, too distant and elevated to be very appreciable.

The more scientific exchanges are muliplied, and for the glory of science they are multiplying every day, the more we shall see the inconveniences augment which result from a multiplicity of systems, without speaking of the material errors which the transformations give place to, and which have to be made by the assistance of a written or mental calculation. Where is the French physician who will read without impatience an English record, in which there is each day two temperatures of Fahrenheit to transform as approximately as possible into centigrade temperatures, and a prescription in grains or scruples which must be changed into centigrammes? And whatever may be the amount of British phlegm, where is the English physician who will always do without temptation the reverse work? Blessed impatiences ! It is the e which will demonstrate to the most opposed to change, the necessity of a reform to which the learned societies most assuredly have contributed especially to the beginning, but also that individual effort and force of persuasion which attaches to clear and simple things, will have rendered facile and universal. The medical press is all powerful in this particular. If all medical journals published abroad would follow the example of the Boston Medical Fournal and publish prominently in each of their numbers a short resume of the metrical system with explanatory tables the reform would not be long in becoming general. The metrical system would soon be adopted all over the world, and the happy dream that the National Convention indulged in at its creation would be realized.

METRICAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

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spoon 20 gms.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADA LANCET.

SIR.—Two years last February I left Canada for Jamaica with the intention of establishing a "Sanitarium" for chest affections, in some part of the island provided the climate proved a suitable one. On my arrival here I thought it advisable to wait, before starting such an institution, until I had made myself personally acquainted with the climate and the people, and found a place that would be suitable for such an undertaking. During my two ycars' residence here, I have taken some trouble in finding out for myself, and making enquiries from other medical men as to the propriety of starting such an enterprise, and have come to the conclusion, that as a winter residence for invalids suffering from chest affections Jamaica is unequalled.

It has been a source of astonishment to many here, competent from travel and experience to judge, that the Canadians and Americans, have not availed themselves, of the advantages of Jamaica as a winter residence, being as one might say almost at their very doors.

Two reasons may be assigned, why Jamaica has been so little visited by invalids; first, the difficulty if not impossibility of obtaining accomodation anywhere outside of Kingston, which place is in no way suitable, nor from any point attractive to an invalid; secondly, the prevailing idea that yellow fever is a common complaint in Jamaica. Now I do not hesitate to say that a case of yellow fever, is looked on as a rare thing even in Kingston, and is almost unknown in the country districts; and I further state, that, among the same proportion of people in Canada, there will be ten times as many deaths from diphtheria and typhoid, than in Jamaica from yellow fever.

Convinced that the climate was a good one for invalids, my next move was to find a suitable place, at a medium altitude, with the necessary buildings

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