NOTATION AND NUMERATION.

in the decimal system is represented by 3.641,100 in the Octimal System.

Comparative tables, showing numbers in ordinary use (say up to 500 or 1,000) expressed in the two systems, might be prepared and placed in all books of ordinary literature. This would mean no appreciable addition to the cost of a book and would serve occasionally as a convement reference. Numbers higher than these give only a very vague idea, at best, to the human mind; hence a lesson or two on what we might call "Imaginative proportions" would be ample to give anyone a sufficient idea of how any large number, expressed decimally, would be expressed in the Octimal System. For instance, 10,000 in our present notation would be 23420 in the new; one hundred thousand becomes three etreds and three etands, two etred fouret and so on. Thus any number of thousands or millions could be roughly expressed with but little mental effort

The greatest objection that can be raised to the introduction of a new system of notation will be that all mathematical books and tables will have to be renewed at considerable trouble and expense. However, the expense would be trifling compared with the loss in the value of machinery entailed by the introduction of the Metric System and, moreover, it will soon be repaid by the gain in labor and efficiency. The trouble will be borne by men whose time is given to educational work and not by business men or mechanics. Then, too, it will be some years before either the French Metric or an Octimal system could be introduced and by that time, new editions of all the most useful books would be required and the change could be made as they were printed. Even the task of preparing a new table of logarithms, with the multitude of double transformations necessary, is, comparatively a small undertaking.

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