

pose a change in the present units of weight. The pound avoirdupois would remain the standard as at present. But we would change the division of the pound into eight (10) parts instead of twoct (our present sixteen), as being simpler and more in harmony with the whole Octimal System. The most suitable higher unit would be etand (1,000, our present 512) pounds for which we might still retain the term "ton." It is well known that our present ton is too large, to serve as a convenient unit, and that it is not fitted to practical life, inasmuch as it does not represent a fair wagon load of any of the commodities in general use.

Much credit has been claimed for the French Metric System, because of the so-called connection between its measures of weight and of volume. The gram which is the unit of weights in this system is fixed as the weight of water at a temperature of 4 degrees C., which is contained in one cubic centimetre, the unit of volume. But as water changes its weight, materially, with a change of temperature, it is clear that we can arrive at an approximate idea only of the weight of a known volume of water. The one convenience of the units in the French System is that one is able to calculate the weight of a known volume of a substance by simply multiplying the number expressing this volume by the specific gravity of the substance.

But surely by a comparatively small amount of work specific gravities might be expressed with reference to a solution of a certain strength, one cubic inch of which weighs one ounce. This would furnish us with all the theoretical advantage of the French system and at the same time save us from the annoyance which the introduction of such a system would cause in its demand for a universal change in our present units of weight. The new table of weights would appear as follows: