## DECIMALS AND DECIMALISATION.

## Duodecimal and Sexagesimal

In passing to the consideration of Systems coinage, weights and measures, we clash at once with the remains of another system, the duodecimal. The writer, indeed, thinks that in the method of weighing diamonds we have a relic of a still older civilization. In this, the carat is the unit, though not everywhere of the same weight. It is divided into halves, fourths, etc., down to sixty fourths, though the method of weighing by carats and decimals of a carat is now frequently used in America and Canada. So, too, the mode of weighing pearls is of immemorial antiquity, the grain being the unit, divided into fourths only. But the duodecimal system, if later, is prehistoric too. It was possibly prevalent among the Mongoloids, who once occupied Europe, for it clings to many places there with all the tenacity of a survival. In the dawn of history we find it in full use among the Mongolians of the lower reaches of the Tigris and the Euphrates, where the Paradise of the Hebrew book of Genesis has usually been placed. They were a numerous and industrious folk, largely agricultural, and therefore much interested in astronomy and cognate sciences. Great quantities of tablets have been found at Nineveh, with inscriptions in cuneiform characters but in the Akkadian language, which persisted long after the Semitic people, who broke in as conquerors, had become imbued with the civilization they found existent. To this Accad or Akkad-Chaldaean race, certainly Turanian, we owe the division of the day into two parts of twelve hours each, of the hour into sixty minutes, and of the minute into sixty seconds. These divisions follow from the division of the circum-