

SWEDEN introduced the metric system in 1879, but allowed the old measures to continue until 1889. The former did not triumph until it had become the only legal system, but the change was effected without any great difficulty, has shown itself in every way satisfactory in practice, and no desire to return to the old system has been traced. It has had a very good effect upon native commerce.

NORWAY only took three years from 1879 to introduce the system. All public accounts, taxes and customs had to be regulated by it from the start, and its introduction "has been hailed by the commercial classes with much satisfaction. It has on the whole been learnt without difficulty by the lower classes, and has proved both expeditious and well suited to all practical requirements. It is considered that its adoption has facilitated trade. . . A foreign firm using the metrical system will always prefer to deal with another firm which furnishes its weights, prices, and measures in the same system."

SWITZERLAND took less time to put the metric system into operation than any other nation; from July, 1875, to Jan., 1877, only. It has proved very satisfactory and beneficial, the only difficulty having been some reluctance to exchange for the metre the old familiar ell. The same thing happened in the Netherlands, and may be expected in England, in respect to the yard.

TURKEY winds up the procession of continental nations with the admission of failure to keep up with its pace. In 1886 the usual law was passed, fixing as the date for introducing the metric system a period five years from that time, and in 1891 the old measures were destroyed in Constantinople, where alone they were to be compulsory. The difficulty of enforcing a measure so unpopular as this proved to be, upon an ignorant and illiterate people, was thought insurmountable, and the rule was allowed to lapse. Two years ago the kilo was again compulsorily introduced in the same city in place of the oke, but the rule was again quashed in less than a year. The employment of either system is now optional. It was not only the general ignorance which defeated the measure, but the low commercial morality of the dealers, for the new measures, while less than the old, were sold at the same price, and generally called by the same name, which of course was displeasing to the general public.

APPENDIX II.

METRIC TABLES.

The *mètre* is the ten millionth of the Quadrant from the Pole to the Equator of the Earth, as calculated a century ago. It is