

(Letters, from p. 18)

label their products in metric units.

Why not do as Mr. Roohr suggests? If the few objections you receive are convincing enough, then revert to the policy of denying the rest of us the pleasure of reading measurements based on a logically sound system, metric.

Arthur G. Ehrlich  
Buffalo, N.Y.

I should like to second Mr. Roohr's proposal. I've just completed a manuscript revision of my book in which I have changed the British equivalents to the metric system, using parentheses including the British equivalents the first time a measure was introduced. I agree that this change would be very helpful.

Leonard A. Maynard  
Graduate School of Nutrition  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, N.Y.

Mr. Peter E. Roohr's proposal (SN: 5/25, p. 492) to use both the metric system and its British equivalent in *Science News* is an excellent idea.

It was not until starting to take physics courses in college that I became familiar with the metric system. According to your reader survey last year, *Science News* is subscribed to by many adult professionals and read by many young people; use of the metric system would give them a great advantage on undertaking high school or college programs in science related fields.

Wayne H. Warren Jr.  
Bell Telephone Laboratories  
Murray Hill, N.J.

The conversion to a metric system should be as smooth as possible. Our youngsters, being exposed to both graduations for as long as practical, will be better able to cope with the metric standards as well as giving the old timers a chance to absorb a "feel" for the new system.

R. W. Gilson  
Sherwood Medical Industries, Inc.  
St. Louis, Mo.

Mr. Roohr advocates that *SCIENCE NEWS* adopt the use of both metric and British units. I support that position which is essentially the editorial policy adopted by NASA several years ago. NASA reports use measurements taken in the U.S. Customary Units and parenthetically give the equivalents in the International System of Units (SI). Details concerning the use of SI units are given in NASA report SP-7012, 1964, which would make a very convenient reference for your readers.

Charles H. Fox Jr.  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
Langley Research Center

I think this is a great idea! Please do everything you can do to promote the use of the metric system in this country.

William H. Seaton  
Tennessee Eastman Co.  
Kingsport, Tennessee

The sooner we all convert, the better. The use of footnotes for the British equivalents (instead of parentheses) might make reading an article easier for those who are already familiar with the metric system.

John R. Vig  
Piscataway, N.J.

Such a change could be an important factor in the effort to get rid of the present intolerable amalgam.

Louis Baldwin  
Sandia Laboratory  
Albuquerque, N. Mex.

(We received more letters on this subject than we have on any in the short history of our letters column. We were unable to print all we received, and mean no slight by the omission of some. These are more than a sample. They are an exact representation of the unanimous accord on the issue and are a valuable contribution to our constant effort to refine and improve *SCIENCE NEWS*. Ed.)

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**FLIES EYES.** 16mm, b&w, sound, 30 min. Report on the use of flies to study the neurological aspects of vision as a part of a broad study on how human beings acquire, use, and transmit information. Experiment is shown which involves the measurement of changes in electrical current within a living fly's brain when it sees different patterns. Audience: general. Purchase \$150 or rental \$5.90 from NET Film Service, Indiana University, Audio-Visual Center, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

**GIFT OF LIFE/RIGHT TO DIE.** 16mm, b&w, sound, 15 min. A filmed essay on medical ethics which covers four types of decisions involving the life or death of a patient. Moral decisions involved in making organ transplants are discussed, and physicians describe occasions which a choice must be made to revive one patient rather than another. Audience: general. Purchase \$100 or rental \$4.15 from NET Film Service, Indiana University, Audio-Visual Center, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

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706

6 July 1968/vol. 94/science news/21