

**METRIC PRIMER: A TEXT-
BOOK FOR BEGINNERS,
WITH FOLDING CHART
AND SCHOLAR'S METER**

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Metric Primer: A Text-book for Beginners, with Folding Chart and Scholar's Meter by L. S. B.

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METRIC PRIMER

A

TEXT-BOOK FOR BEGINNERS

WITH FOLDING CHART AND SCHOLAR'S METER

Prepared for the Society by a Practical
Teacher



Second Revision. Third Edition.

H O S T O N
A M E R I C A N M E T R I C B U R E A U

[Melvil Dewey, Sec'y, 22 Hawley Street]

1879

KC 10537



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TO THE TEACHER.

The old fashion of question and answer has been revived in this primer, because it is believed to be, when judiciously used, one of the best methods of giving instruction to beginners. To carry out the plan of the book, the learner need not commit to memory verbatim the answers to the questions; but he should grasp their meaning, and gain command of words, either those of the book or his own, so that he may intelligently express that meaning when he comes to recite. To this end the teacher should take care that in recitation the learner combine the question with the answer in such a manner as to present a complete thought or proposition, and to show that he knows to what he is making answer. After the question and answer recitation, a summary may be made by the learner, either with or without the aid of the teacher. Indeed, the book may be used solely for topical recitation by older students who are beginners in learning the Metric System. It is therefore adapted to several grades of schools. A mere memory exercise is far from being all that it contemplates; it is designed to be, and, by a good teacher, can be made, a true text-book,—the basis and sugges-

tion of many topics of pleasant and useful talk. Even without a teacher, the simple text may, it is hoped, be clearly understood; the aim having been to unfold the subject so gradually, and to make the steps of progress so easy, that any one following the course should not fail to get a fair knowledge of the theory, and some proficiency in the practice of the Metric System. In the whole study one point is of prime importance, — the actual seeing and handling of the objects under discussion. The meter, the liter, and the kilo should be as familiar to the student as are the yard, the quart, and the pound.

To recite fluently the words of the book, and to work readily and correctly the examples for practice, will not be to learn the Metric System, or to make the best use of this primer. It is preëminently a book of object-lessons. The objects lacking, the lessons lose their chief value and interest.

S. L. B.

CHAPTER 1.

WHAT THE METRIC SYSTEM IS.

NOTE. — Combine the question with the answer in such a manner as to present a complete thought or proposition.

What is this Primer for?

To teach something about the Metric System.

What is the Metric System?

A method of measuring and weighing.

Why should we learn this method?

Because our Government advises its use in the United States.

Why will it be better to use the Metric System than to keep our old measures and weights?

Because the Metric System is much simpler, and because it is now used by most of the civilized nations.

What gain is it to have our system like that of other nations?

It makes trade with them easier; since, when all buy and sell by the same measures, we can readily compare prices and reckon gains or losses.

Why do scholars and students of science favor the Metric System?

Because it will save much time and labor of study to have the words and signs for measures and weights mean the same thing in the books of all languages.

How many nations now use the Metric System?

Twenty-seven nations use it, and in eighteen of these nations all other measures are unlawful, so that people are compelled to use it.

Why is this system simpler than the old method of measuring by feet and weighing by pounds?

Because it is a decimal system.

What is a decimal system?

A system where ten of each kind of measures or weights make one of the next greater.

What is the system of United States money?

A decimal system.

Will you show how it is a decimal system?

Ten mills make one cent, ten cents make one dime, ten dimes make one dollar, ten dollars make one eagle.

What is the system of writing numbers?

A decimal system.

Will you show how?

Ten units make one ten, ten tens make one hundred, ten hundreds make one thousand—and so forth.

What gain would it be to school children to have the Metric System prevail?

It would save their time and pains in learning long, hard tables of measures, where $5\frac{1}{2}$, $16\frac{1}{2}$, $80\frac{1}{4}$, $272\frac{1}{2}$, $7\frac{22}{100}$, etc., times one kind of measure make one of the next greater. By its decimal character, they would be instructed more rapidly and thoroughly in the properties of numbers, and thus, in the opinion of most teachers, would save a year of their school life.

What gain would it be to them later in life?

It would simplify their business calculations; giving greater accuracy with a great saving of time. Since the time of clerks and accountants costs money, a great saving of money to business men would result.

How do we measure length by the new system?

We use the meter [mee'-ter].

What is the measure next greater than the meter?

The ten-meter.

What is next greater than the ten-meter?

The hundred-meter.

What is next greater than the hundred-meter?

The thousand-meter.

What is the measure next smaller than the meter?

The tenth-meter.

What is the measure next smaller than the tenth-meter?

The hundredth-meter.

What is the measure next smaller than the hundredth-meter?

The thousandth-meter.

What do we use for measuring liquids?

The liter [lee'-ter].

What are the measures greater than the liter?

The ten-liter, the hundred-liter, and the thousand-liter.

What are the measures smaller than the liter?

The tenth-liter, the hundredth-liter, the thousandth-liter.

What is the metric weight?

The gram.

What are the weights greater than the gram?

The ten-gram, the hundred-gram, and the thousand-gram.

What are the smaller weights?

The tenth-gram, the hundredth-gram, the thousandth gram.

Must we know how these measures differ from the old ones?