ERRATUM. In the communication “Thiorurea and Potassium Permeability of Phospholipid Bilayer Membranes as Affected by Examinin P2” by Claudio Lippe (Nature, 218, 196; 1968) on the eighth line of the third paragraph, page 196, “a 0-1 solution” should read “a 0-1 M solution”. The second sentence of the seventh paragraph should read: “According to Vreeman”, however, lipid membranes have a sodium ion permeability coefficient ($P_{Na}^+$) which is at least two or three orders of magnitude lower . . .”

ERRATUM. In the communication “Spectral Conformity. A Widespread Effect of Light” by Herbert F. Launer (Nature, 218, 161; 1968) the sentences beginning on the eleventh line of the second paragraph of page 163 should read: “Absorber formation poses a problem, however, because photons of green and blue light ordinarily lack the energy to break bonds. Heating cannot be responsible because temperature control was reliable and the heat generated by red light, which formed no absorbers, was two to three times that by 546 nm, as may be calculated from the data given”.

CORRESPONDENCE

Pollution

Sir,—For several hundred years men have been aware of the consequences of unrestricted pollution of land, water and air. In recent times the acceleration of industrial production, the emergence of new industrial societies, the projected vast increase in power consumption and the growing world population have brought this situation into sharper focus.

Consequently, increasing numbers of engineers and scientists are giving attention to the study and control of pollution. As yet, no single name for this field has been put forward.

I would like to suggest the word “Miasmology”, derived from the Greek word for pollution, to denote the study of the effect of civilization upon the physical environment. By giving this field the dignity of a name, we may encourage a greater unity among workers who seek to understand and control the many forms of environmental pollution.

Yours truly,

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Decimal Currency

Sir,—The first few days of the new decimal coins has convinced me that the really confusing thing in the new currency is the retention of the name “penny” even qualified by “new”, and that if this unit had been called a “cent” or some other name not associated with current British coinage, the transition would have been greatly eased.

I believe that the real trouble with the SI system is the retention of the name “kilogramme” so that, unless we are to perpetuate such barbarities as a millikilogramme”, we have, most confusingly, lost the proper use of the valuable system of prefixes. Is it too late, for the UK anyway—and others might follow—to give the unit of mass another name?

Yours truly,

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