

outside of the lecture room? What engineer would use foot poundal for example? The nomenclature is also redundant. A single instance will suffice. Shall we say vis-viva, living force, or kinetic energy? All three are used to denote the same thing to the mystification of the beginner. All three can be found in text books of recent date. To my mind there is no doubt but that kinetic energy is the proper term.

Now, the confusion, deficiency, and redundancy being granted, what can be done? No one writer can do much to effect a change. But an association such as the *New York Mathematical Society* can do much. Expressions of opinion through the pages of this journal would probably lead to some more definite understanding than now exists. At least some of the more glaring absurdities and contradictions of our present system might be abated. Besides, it might tend to curb the ambition of writers to introduce ill-considered terms such as "heaviness" or "centre of weight" for centre of gravity and the like.

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A TREATISE ON LINEAR DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS. Vol. I. Equations with uniform coefficients. By THOMAS CRAIG, Ph.D. New York; John Wiley & Sons, 1889. 8vo, pp. ix. + 516.

THE appearance of Fuchs's two memoirs in 1866 and 1868 respectively, gave an impetus to research on linear differential equations which has resulted in the development of an enormous literature on the subject, consisting of articles and memoirs scattered through mathematical journals and the proceedings of learned societies. The systematization and presentation in a body of the principal methods and results developed in these isolated papers, is the work which has been undertaken by Professor Craig, and which has successfully issued in the first volume of the most advanced treatise on pure mathematics ever published by an American author. Whilst the presentation of the subject as a whole must prove of advantage to those few mathematicians who have access to the memoirs whence it draws, upon the many to whom the original sources are not open it confers an inestimable boon. To the English-reading student further it manifests in his own language the substance of what is for the most part in the original in French or German. Praise is due the author for the scrupulous care with which he credits every writer