Renaming the Numbers

In our first issue, we presented the existing names for very large numbers, pointed out the many inconsistencies and imperfections in those names, and suggested that readers attempt to devise an improved system of number names.

Mr. Rudolf Ondrejka of Linwood, New Jersey has submitted his version of an improved nomenclature to us, and we are publishing it here for consideration by other readers. Mr. Ondrejka's revision meets only some of the objections to the existing set of number names, but it is a debatable question whether the remaining objections can or ought to be overcome.

To begin with, Mr. Ondrejka has reasoned that the number names for the first 20 periods, from the THOUSAND to the VIGINTILLION, are so well established, appearing in most of the major dictionaries of the English language, that it would not be expedient to try replacing them with a more logical series of names. We must accept them, he argues, building on top of them as best we can.

Secondly, Mr. Ondrejka decided to confine himself to prefixes of Latin origin, based on the Latin cardinals and ordinals up to the 1000th period. Beyond that point, he introduced prefixes based on the Latin multiplicative adverbials, used with or without the ordinals as combining forms. All of the prefixes are based on the number names given in the 1892 Edition of *Cassells' Latin Dictionary* (revised by J. R. V. Marchant and J. F. Charles) and in the 1957 Edition of the *Collins Latin Gem Dictionary* by D. A. Kidd.

Thirdly, Mr. Ondrejka has extended the scheme of number names all the way to the one billionth period, instead of stopping at the one millionth period, as did Professor Henkle. He has also listed the number names by periods, giving the number of zeroes for each number name in both the American-French and in the British-German systems of notation.

The result has been to change 23 of the number names originally proposed by Professor Henkle, expanding Henkle's list a thousandfold.

Mr. Ondrejka's "Numeration Table" follows, for your critical inspection. The table is so presented that any number name not specifically listed in it can easily be deduced. The names toward the end of the list are awkwardly long, but then, we are dealing here with huge numbers. Mr. Ondrejka believes

that it will be difficult to produce any ambiguous names or inconsistencies in his list.

Comments from readers are invited.

The last number on the list—the milli-millimillillion—is an enormous one, by all reasonable standards. Yet, we must remember that it is almost infinitesimal when compared to other finite numbers that have been named: the GOOGOLPLEX, and SKEWES' NUMBER, and the MEGA, and the MEGISTON, and the MOSER. But those incredibly larger numbers are another story.

		Powers of 10	
Period	Name	(U.S.)	(Brit.)
1	million	6	6
2	billion	9	12
3	trillion	12	18
4	quadrillion	15	24
5	quintillion	18	30
6	sextillion	21	36
7	septillion	24	42
8	octillion	27	48
9	nonillion	30	54
10	decillion	33	60
11	undecillion	36	66
12	duodecillion	39	72
13	tredecillion	42	78
14	quattuordecillion	45	84
15	quindecillion	48	90
16	sexdecillion	51	96
17	septendecillion	54	102
18	octodecillion	57	108
19	novemdecillion	60	114
20	vigintillion	63	120
21	primo-vigintillion	66	126
22	secundo-vigintillion	69	132
23	tertio-vigintillion	72	138
24	quarto-vigintillion	75	144
25	quinto-vigintillion	78	150
26	sexto-vigintillion	81	156
27	septimo-vigintillion	84	162
28	octavo-vigintillion	87	168
29	nono-vigintillion	90	174
30	trigintillion	93	180
40	quadragintillion	123	240
50	quinquagintillion	153	300
60	sexagintillion	183	360
70	septuagintillion	213	420
80	octogintillion	243	480
90	nonagintillion	273	540
100	centillion	303	600
101	primo-centillion	306	606

		Powers of 10	
Period	Name	(U.S.)	(Brit.)
110	decimo-centillion	333	660
111	undecimo-centillion	336	666
112	duodecimo-centillion	339	672
113	tertiodecimo-centillion	342	678
114	quartodecimo-centillion	345	684
115	quintodecimo-centillion	348	690
116	sextodecimo-centillion	351	696
117	septimodecimo-centillion	354	702
118	octavodecimo-centillion	357	708
119	nonodecimo-centillion	360	714
120	vigesimo-centillion	363	720
121	primo-vigesimo-centillion	366	726
130	trigesimo-centillion	393	780
140	quadragesimo-centillion	423	840
150	quinquagesimo-centillion	453	900
160	sexagesimo-centillion	483	960
170	septuagesimo-centillion	513	1,020
180	octogesimo-centillion	543	1,080
190	nonagesimo-centillion	573	1,140
200	ducentillion	603	1,200
300	trecentillion	903	1,800
400	quadringentillion	1,203	2,400
500	quingentillion	1,503	3,000
600	sexcentillion	1,803	3,600
700	septingentillion	2,103	4,200
800	octingentillion	2,403	4,800
900	nongentillion	2,703	5,400
1,000	millillion	3,003	6,000
1,001	primo-millillion	3,006	6,006
1,010	decimo-millillion	3,033	6,060
1,100	centesimo-millillion	3,303	6,600
1,101	primo-centesimo-millillion	3,306	6,606
1,110	decimo-centesimo-millillion	3,333	6,660
1,200	ducentesimo-millillion	3,603	7,200
1,300	trecentesimo-millillion	3,903	7,800
1,400	quadringentesimo-millillion	4,203	8,400
1,500	quingentesimo-millillion	4,503	9,000
1,600	sexcentesimo-millillion	4,803	9,600
1,700	septingentesimo-millillion	5,103	10,200
1,800	octingentesimo-millillion	5,403	10,800
1,900	nongentesimo-millillion	5,703	11,400
2,000	bi-millillion	6,003	12,000
3,000	tri-millillion	9,003	18,000
4,000	quadri-millillion	12,003	24,000
5,000	quinqui-millillion	15,003	30,000
6,000	sexi-millillion	18,003	36,000
7,000	septi-millillion	21,003	42,000
8,000	octi-millillion	24,003	48,000
9,000	novi-millillion	27,003	54,000

		Powers of 10	
Period	Name	(U.S.)	(Brit.)
10,000	deci-millillion	30,003	60,000
11,000	undeci-millillion	33,003	66,000
12,000	duodeci-millillion	36,003	72,000
13,000	tredeci-millillion	39,003	78,000
14,000	quattuordeci-millillion	42,003	84,000
15,000	quindeci-millillion	45,003	90,000
16,000	sexdeci-millillion	48,003	96,000
17,000	septideci-millillion	51,003	102,000
18,000	octideci-millillion	54,003	108,000
19,000	novideci-millillion	57,003	114,000
20,000	vici-millillion	60,003	120,000
21,000	semeli-vici-millillion	63,003	126,000
22,000	bi-vici-millillion	66,003	132,000
23,000	tri-vici-millillion	69,003	138,000
24,000	quadri-vici-millillion	72,003	144,000
25,000	quinqui-vici-millillion	75,003	150,000
26,000	sexi-vici-millillion	78,003	156,000
27,000	septi-vici-millillion	81,003	162,000
28,000	octi-vici-millillion	84,003	168,000
29,000	novi-vici-millillion	87,003	174,000
30,000	trici-millillion	90,003	180,000
40,000	quadragi-millillion	120,003	240,000
50,000	quinquagi-millillion	150,003	300,000
60,000	sexagi-millillion	180,003	360,000
70,000	septuagi-millillion	210,003	420,000
80,000	octogi-millillion	240,003	480,000
90,000	nonagi-millillion	270,003	540,000
100,000	centi-millillion	300,003	600,000
100,001	primo-centi-millillion	300,006	600,006
100,010	decimo-centi-millillion	300,033	600,060
100,100	centesimo-centi-millillion	300,303	600,600
101,000	semeli-centi-millillion	303,003	606,000
102,000	bi-centi-millillion	306,003	612,000
103,000	tri-centi-millillion	309,003	618,000
104,000	quadri-centi-millillion	312,003	624,000
105,000	quinqui-centi-millillion	315,003	630,000
106,000	sexi-centi-millillion	318,003	636,000
107,000	septi-centi-millillion	321,003	642,000
108,000	octi-centi-millillion	324,003	648,000
109,000	novi-centi-millillion	327,003	654,000
110,000	deci-centi-millillion	330,003	660,000
120,000	vici-centi-millillion	360,003	720,000
130,000	trici-centi-millillion	390,003	780,000
140,000	quadragi-centi-millillion	420,003	840,000
150,000	quinquagi-centi-millillion	450,003	900,000
160,000	sexagi-centi-millillion	480,003	960,000
170,000	septuagi-centi-millillion	510,003	1,020,000
180,000	octogi-centi-millillion	540,003	1,080,000
190,000	nonagi-centi-millillion	570,003	1,140,000

		Powers of 10	
Period	*Name*	*(U.S.)*	*(Brit.)*
200,000	ducenti-millillion	600,003	1,200,000
300,000	trecenti-millillion	900,003	1,800,000
400,000	quadringenti-millillion	1,200,003	2,400,000
500,000	quingenti-millillion	1,500,003	3,000,000
600,000	sexcenti-millillion	1,800,003	3,600,000
700,000	septingenti-millillion	2,100,003	4,200,000
800,000	octingenti-millillion	2,400,003	4,800,000
900,000	nongenti-millillion	2,700,003	5,400,000
1,000,000	milli-millillion	3,000,003	6,000,000
1,000,001	primo-millimillillion	3,000,006	6,000,006
1,000,010	decimo-millimillillion	3,000,033	6,000,060
1,000,100	centesimo-millimillillion	3,000,303	6,000,600
1,001,000	millesimo-millimillillion	3,003,003	6,006,000
1,001,001	primo-millesimo-millimillillion	3,003,006	6,006,006
1,002,000	bimillesimo-millimillillion	3,006,003	6,012,000
1,003,000	trimillesimo-millimillillion	3,009,003	6,018,000
1,010,000	decimillesimo-millimillillion	3,030,003	6,060,000
1,020,000	vicimillesimo-millimillillion	3,060,003	6,120,000
1,021,000	semelivicimillesimo-millimillillion	3,063,003	6,126,000
1,022,000	bivicimillesimo-millimillillion	3,066,003	6,132,000
1,030,000	tricimillesimo-millimillillion	3,090,003	6,180,000
1,100,000	centimillesimo-millimillillion	3,300,003	6,600,000
1,101,000	semelicentimillesimo-millimillillion	3,303,003	6,606,000
1,200,000	ducentimillesimo-millimillillion	3,600,003	7,200,000
1,300,000	trecentimillesimo-millimillillion	3,900,003	7,800,000
2,000,000	bi-millimillillion	6,000,003	12,000,000
3,000,000	tri-millimillillion	9,000,003	18,000,000
10,000,000	deci-millimillillion	30,000,003	60,000,000
20,000,000	vici-millimillillion	60,000,003	120,000,000
30,000,000	trici-millimillillion	90,000,003	180,000,000
100,000,000	centi-millimillillion	300,000,003	600,000,000
101,000,000	semeli-centi-millimillillion	303,000,003	606,000,000
102,000,000	bi-centi-millimillillion	306,000,003	612,000,000
103,000,000	tri-centi-millimillillion	309,000,003	618,000,000
110,000,000	deci-centi-millimillillion	330,000,003	660,000,000
120,000,000	vici-centi-millimillillion	360,000,003	720,000,000
200,000,000	ducenti-millimillillion	600,000,003	1,200,000,000
300,000,000	trecenti-millimillillion	900,000,003	1,800,000,000
400,000,000	quadringenti-millimillillion	1,200,000,003	2,400,000,000
500,000,000	quingenti-millimillillion	1,500,000,003	3,000,000,000
600,000,000	sexcenti-millimillillion	1,800,000,003	3,600,000,000
700,000,000	septingenti-millimillillion	2,100,000,003	4,200,000,000
800,000,000	octingenti-millimillillion	2,400,000,003	4,800,000,000
900,000,000	nongenti-millimillillion	2,700,000,003	5,400,000,000
1,000,000,000	milli-millimillillion	3,000,000,003	6,000,000,000