


LECTURE X.
THE YARD, THE PENDULUM, AND THE
METRE.

CONSIDERED IN REFERENCE TO THE CHOICE OF A
STANDARD OF LENGTH.*

HE attention of the public has of late been strongly drawn to the subject of a proposed alteration of our national system of weights and measures, by the attempt made during the last session of Parliament to carry through a bill, having for its object the abolition of our existing system in its entirety, and the introduction, in its place, of what is known as the "French Metrical System." The bill, it is true, was withdrawn after passing the second reading (by which the House, as is usually supposed, "*affirmed*"

* This Lecture or Essay was communicated to the Leeds Astronomical Society, and read at a meeting of that Society on October 27, 1863.