CALIBRATION CORRECTIONS

The article "All About Calibration," in the June 1988 issue of **Radio-Electronics**, contains a slight error. In discussing the international standard for length, the author states that the meter has now been redefined as "a certain number of wavelengths of an orange-red line of light irradiated by atoms of krypton^{86}." That was, indeed, the *former* definition—the exact number of wavelengths being 1,650,763.73. That value, together with the definition of the second as the time for the electromagnetic radiation from a radioactive-cesium clock to make 9,192,631,770 vibrations, later led to a measured value for the speed of light in a vacuum (*c*) equal to 299,792,458 meters per second.

The measurement of *c* had become so precise that in October 1983, the General Conference on Weights and Measures decided to redefine the meter as the length of the path traveled by light in vacuum during a time interval of one 299,792,458th of a second.

In effect, then, the meter is a unit derived from this more fundamental quantity.

WM. H. LAMB, JR.
Eatonton, GA