

diligent study of Ruskin's eminent works; but he ought to understand well how to make the best use of room, and to be thoroughly acquainted with the most convenient arrangements for his books.

In contemplating the erection of an edifice for a library, it is most important to consider the means of protection from the dangers of fire and water, and other destructive influences; the choice of a site remote for a noisy or dangerous neighborhood, such as that of theatres, factories, but nevertheless conveniently situated for the visitors of the library; a regard to the wisest use of room, as well as to the comfortable and elegant arrangement of the interior; and finally, the possibility of an enlargement, if it should become necessary.

The plan of heating rooms with warmed air and lighting them with gas, is probably the best known and most approved, in consequence of its efficiency, and the almost entire annihilation of the dangers of fire. For these reasons it is the best method to be adopted in a public library.

Economy in the use of room is one of the most essential requisites in an edifice destined for a collection of books. The apartments should either only be so high that the top shelves are easily accessible by a light and transportable ladder, or be crowned with galleries, on which cases for books may be placed.

In some of the European libraries and reading rooms, skylights with panes of muffed glass have been introduced with great success. They admit light enough, and at the same time afford protection from the dazzling rays of the sun. The most suitable form for a library room seems to be a long and wide saloon, well lighted from above or both sides.