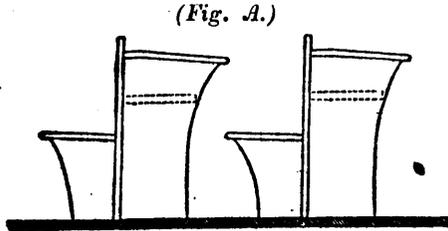


School-house of this description. We insert it simply for the sake of variety—our practical object being to familiarize the public generally with specimens of neat and elegant exteriors, and utility of interior arrangements in the construction of School-houses; and to elevate the standard of local and rural taste in regard to School Architecture. The internal arrangements suitable to the foregoing Plan are so similar to those we have just explained, and to others previously given, that we do not deem it necessary to repeat them here, but simply direct attention to those already published. These arrangements can very easily be modified in each case to suit the wants and circumstances of particular localities. In connection with Fig. 3, we would solicit the attention of parties concerned to the very handsome Elizabethan Designs for School-houses, recommended by Her Majesty's Privy Council Committee on Education and published on page 53 of the April No. The preceding remarks apply as well to them as to the plan we now insert (Fig. 3.)

SEATS AND DESKS FOR PUPILS.

On the 13th and 35th pages of this *Journal*, we offered some suggestions on the proper construction of Seats and Desks for pupils, and intimated that we would refer to the subject more at length hereafter, and illustrate our remarks with appropriate engravings. So deeply impressed, however, are we of the great importance which should be attached to this department of School-house building, and of the almost universal inconsiderateness displayed in the construction



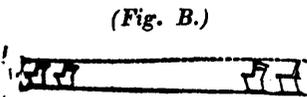
Section of Seat and Desk.

and arrangement of pupil's seats and desks, that we again repeat some of the remarks which appeared in the March No., on this subject, and solicit a careful attention to them on

the part of Trustees and others most interested in the matter :—

"In the construction and arrangement of the seats and desks of a school-room, due regard should be had to the convenience, comfort and health of those who are to occupy them. To secure these objects, they should be made for the young and not for grown persons, and of varying heights, for children of different ages, from four years and under, to sixteen and upwards. They should be adapted to each other and the purposes for which they will be used, such as writing and ciphering, so as to prevent any awkward, inconvenient or unhealthy positions of the limbs, chest or spine. They should be easy of access, so that every scholar can go to and from his seat and change his position, and the teacher can approach each scholar and give the required attention and instruction, without disturbing any other person than the one concerned. They should be so arranged as to facilitate habits of attention, take away all temptation and encouragement to violate the rules of the school on the part of any scholar, and admit of the constant and complete supervision of the whole school by the teacher."

Each pupil should be provided with a seat and desk properly adapted to each other, as to height and distance, the front of the latter constituting the back or support of the former,—as shown in Fig. A. The desk should slope about 2½ inches in 16, as indicated in the same Figure.



Section showing Variation in Height.

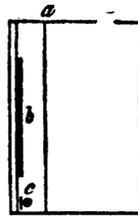
The seats should vary in height, from 9½ inches to 17, for children of different sizes and ages,—the youngest occupying the seats nearest the platform. The seat should be so made, that the feet of every

child when properly seated, can rest on the floor, and the upper and lower part of the leg form a right angle at the knee; and the

back of the seat, whether separated from, or forming part of the adjoining desk behind, should recline to correspond with the natural curves of the spine and the shoulders. The seat should be made as far as possible like a convenient chair.

The desk for a single pupil should be, at least, two feet long (2½ is better) by 18 inches wide, with a shelf beneath—as indicated by the dotted lines in Figure A—for books, and a narrow deep opening between the back of the seat in front of the desk itself to receive a slate—as at *b* in Figure C. The upper surface of the desk, except 3 inches of the part nearest the seat in front, should

(Fig. C.)



Top of Desk.

slope one inch in a foot, and the edge should be in the same perpendicular line with the front of the seat. The three inches of the level portion of the surface of the desk should have a groove running along the line of slope, *a*, Fig. C, to prevent pencils and pens from rolling off, and an opening at *c*, (same Figure) to receive an inkstand, which should be covered with a metallic lid. The end pieces or supporters of the desk should be so made as to interfere as little as possible with sweeping.

(Fig. D.)



Plan of moveable Seats and Desks.

For variety and for the sake of completeness on this subject, in connection with the foregoing remarks, we again insert the accompanying Plan of movable seats and desks, Figure D, from page 69 of the May No.

We have on more than one occasion acknowledged our great indebtedness to the very comprehensive and valuable work on "*School Architecture or Contributions to the Improvement of School-houses, in the United States.*" By the Hon. HENRY BARNARD, Commissioner of Public Schools in Rhode Island," for the complete and beautiful plans of School-houses which have for the last seven months illustrated the pages of this *Journal* devoted to that subject.* The work is published by Messrs. A. S. BARNES & Co., New York, and may be procured in Toronto, or direct from New-York, through Mr. D. M. DREWY, our attentive American Book Agent at Rochester, for \$2. (See Advertisements, pages 16 and 112.) It contains nearly 400 closely printed octavo pages; and is replete with useful information and practical suggestions derived from both European and American Educationists. The author is eminently qualified for the nice and important task he has undertaken, and has acquitted himself with great ability, taste and judgement. We have enriched our pages from time to time with valuable contributions from his work of a direct and highly practical character, in which he forcibly points out the great defects in the previous systems of School Architecture and suggests the most effective means of removing them. We would be rejoiced to see the *School Architecture* placed within the reach of each set of Trustees in Upper Canada. The trifling cost of the work would be amply repaid by the comfort and convenience which would be experienced even in the most unpretending rural School-house by strict attention to the numerous and minute suggestions contained in this admirable and elaborate work, on the part of Trustees and Building Committees. We would just remark that the engravings and mechanical execution of the very beautiful edition of *School Architecture* before us has cost the author about \$4000. A third edition will shortly issue from the Press enriched by additional engravings at a cost of nearly \$300.

* See pages 12, 16, 25, 28, 33, &c.