

hour would be less—in fact, one-half of its present amount. It is to be remembered that, in taking from a clock, persons probably pay small attention to the figures, either those for hours or minutes, the relative position of the hands on the dial probably at once sufficiently indicating the time to most persons without any need of reference thereto, but it would be by no means so easy to pick up the hour from a circle containing twenty-four, and especially in the case of public and turret clocks. There is also the question of change of the motion-work to which allusion has been already made—necessary if the hour-hand is to make one revolution only in twenty-four hours—a practical question in regard to which the watch or clock maker could probably best speak.

There is another way of adapting ordinary watches and clocks to the twenty-four hour system, which, if the watch is intended only for the reckoning of local time, seems deserving of consideration. It consists in making the hour figures shorter, not necessarily at all less distinct, and placing two circles of figures round the dial, an inner circle with hours from 0 to 11, and an outer circle with hours from 12 to 23. The hour-hand would thus point to 1 and 13, and to 2 and 14, etc., at the same time, it being understood that the hours 0, 1, 2, etc., would be reckoned in the morning, and the hours 12, 13, 14, etc., in the afternoon, a convention to which people would soon accommodate themselves. On such a plan a watch would only require a new dial, no change of wheel work being necessary, so that it could be very readily applied to existing watches, and so sooner promote the use of the twenty-four-hour system. Persons might, perhaps, object to the introduction of two hour-circles from an artistic point of view. But, after all is said, the question whether one circle containing twenty-four hours, or two circles having twelve hours in each, be preferable, is one to be settled only by a consideration of the relative advantages and disadvantages of the two proposals, in regard to which it would be interesting to learn what business men and others, on the one hand, and practical watchmakers, on the other, may