

tageous to have closet adjoining the reading-room for a wardrobe, for which a keeper might be hired with a small salary, or any one might obtain the use of this wardrobe, by the payment in large towns of one or two cents, every time a hat or coat is placed there, as is done, for instance in Paris.

The advantage of having the reading-room separated from the library is very great. The room can be made more agreeable if not united with the library, so that the readers will not be interrupted constantly by the noise of comers and goers.

There are very few persons who have not found that every mental labor becomes easier, where the body is placed in a comfortable position. To be uncomfortably seated before too low or too high, or shaking tables, with cold feet and facing the light, are the causes of very disagreeable distractions. On the other hand, the mind becomes animated and prolific when the body is at ease. The addition of writing-desks to the usual tables would undoubtedly give great satisfaction to all visitors of the reading-room.

In a public library, it is essentially necessary that the books and the officers employed should be separated from the visitors, by a railing (see the plan), which might be the continuation of a desk in the form of a semicircle, on which the latest publications might be placed for the inspection of members, just as they usually are now in large public libraries.

The height between the shelves depends of course *on the size* of the books, which are to be placed upon them.

The usual measure for folios is 16 to 20 inches.

Quartos, 10 to 12 "

Octavos, 8 to 10 "

Duodecimos, 7 to 8 "