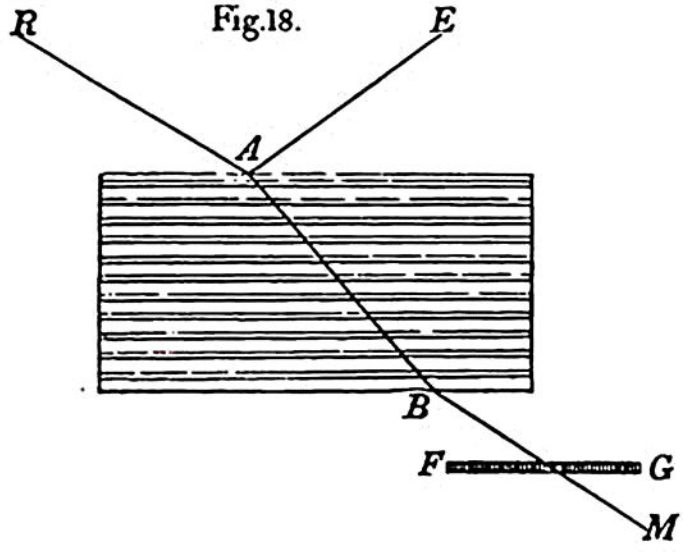
remains to observe, that in passing through the most transparent bodies, much light is lost, by absorption and in other ways. So also when light falls upon metallic bodies, such as polished silver, about one-half only is reflected, while the other half is absorbed and lost. Different substances, however, differ materially in these respects: thus from the experiments of M. Bouguer and M. Lambert, it appears, that in fluids, transparent solids, and metals, the quantity of light reflected, *increases* with the angle of incidence, reckoned from the perpendicular; whereas in white opaque bodies, the quantity of light reflected, *decreases* with the angle of incidence.* We shall hereafter, have occasion to revert to these curious facts.

Polarization of Light.—The next property we have to notice, is what is called the *polarization* of light. Let us suppose Fig. 18, to represent a bundle of plates of thin window-glass, bound together in the manner indicated. Let *R A* be a ray of light falling on the

Fig.18.



* See article Optics, p. 67, and 68, in the Library of Useful Knowledge. Where the original observations are to be found, which are there referred to, we do not at present know.