

them carried to the furthest part of the green-house, shut up the windows, and by that means they sustained but little damage.

This kind of precaution is always observed with regard to animals; when they are stricken with cold, or have a limb frozen, great care is taken not to expose them hastily to heat, but they are rubbed with snow, dipped in water, or burned in dung; in one word, the greatest attention is paid that they shall gradually be brought to warmth. It is almost certain, with respect to fruit which may be frozen, that if thawed with precipitation it invariably perishes, whereas it suffers but little if thawed gradually.

In order to explain how the sun produces so many disorders in frozen plants, some have imagined that the ice, by melting, is reduced into small spherical drops of water, which form so many small burning mirrors when the sun shines upon them. But however small the form of a mirror may be, it can only produce heat at a distance, and can have no effect on a body it touches; besides, the side of the drop of water which is on the leaf of a plant is flat, which removes its focus to a greater distance. In short, if these drops of water could produce this effect why should not the
dew.