

places we may put a slight covering with great facility, which will hold the plants there in a state of dryness, infinitely proper to prevent all the accidents which the spring frosts and ice might produce ; and most plants will not suffer from being deprived of their external humidity, because they scarcely transpire in the winter, or in the beginning of spring, so that the humidity of the air is sufficient for their supply.

But since the dew renders plants so susceptible of the spring frost, might we not hope, that from the researches of Messrs. Musschenbroeck and Fay, some inferences may be deduced which may turn to the advantage of agriculture ? for since there are some bodies which seem to attract dew, while others evidently repel it, if we could paint, plaster, or wash the walls with some matter which would have the latter effect, it is certain we should have room to expect a more fortunate success than from the precaution taken to place a plank in form of a roof over the espaliers, which cannot prevent the abundance of dew from resting on trees, since Fay has proved that it very often does not fall perpendicularly like rain, but floats in the air, and attaches itself to those bodies it encounters ; so that frequently as much dew is amassed under a roof