

SECT. IV.

The general Doctrine of Physiognomy, as connected with the Form of the Body.

As the indiscreet zeal, not only of Dr. Gall, but of physiognomists in general, has thrown unmerited discredit on that department of speculative philosophy which they have cultivated, it may be worth while to examine the subject on other authority than that of professed physiognomists.

There are many phenomena, then, connected with the moral and intellectual faculties of man, both in a healthy and diseased state, which, by shewing the reciprocal influence of the two distinct parts of our nature, the soul and the body, render it probable that the energies of the former, although it be itself immaterial, may be manifested by means of a material instrument. The existence of this reciprocal influence, which indeed we might expect from their intimate though mysterious union, cannot be denied. Thus grief or expectation destroys appetite; and mental application to any favourite pursuit makes us insensible of the want of food: and, on the other hand, a disordered state of the digestive organs evidently impedes the free exercise of the mental powers; or oppresses the soul with those dreadful, though really groundless apprehensions, which have been termed *hypochondriacal* from the situation of the organs,