http://www.geology.19thcenturyscience.org/books/Bridgewater-Treatises/index.html

the nicest balance will not show the smallest increase of its weight from this impregnation. No facts in natural philosophy afford more striking illustrations of the astonishing, and indeed inconceivable divisibility of matter, than those relating to odorous effluvia.

It would appear that most animal and vegetable bodies are continually emitting these subtle effluvia, of which our own organs are not sufficiently delicate to apprize us, unless when they are much concentrated, but which are readily perceived and distinguished by the lower animals; as may be inferred from their actions. A dog is known to follow its master by the scent alone, through the avenues and turnings of a crowded city, accurately distinguishing his track amidst thousands of others.

The utility of the sense of smell is not confined to that of being a check upon the respiration of noxious gases; for it is also a powerful auxiliary to the sense of taste, which, of itself, and without the aid of smell, would be very vague in its indications and limited in its range. What may have been its extent and delicacy in man, while he existed in a savage state, we have scarcely any means of determining; but in the present artificial condition of the race, resulting from civilization and the habitual cultivation of other sources of knowledge, there is less necessity for attending to its perceptions, and our sensibility to odours may perhaps have diminished in the same proportion. It is asserted both by Soemmerring and Blumenbach that the organ of smell is smaller in Europeans, and other civilized races of mankind than in those nations of Africa or America, which are but little removed from a savage state: it is certainly much less developed in man than in most quadrupeds. To the carnivorous tribes, especially, it is highly useful in enabling them to discover their natural food at great distances.

The cavity of the nostrils, in all terrestrial vertebrated animals is divided into two by a vertical partition; and the whole of its internal surface is lined by a soft membrane,