

some difficulties about this view of the origin of animal heat, which detract considerably from its likelihood. Moreover, it is exceedingly probable, that though the evolution of carbonic acid gas, may be one of the means possessed by the animal economy for generating heat; there are yet other means, the nature of which at present is quite unknown.

The quantity of carbon thrown off by the lungs, is very abundant; but has probably been much overrated. Philosophers have, for instance, calculated that the lungs of a man of ordinary size expel, in the course of twenty-four hours, eleven ounces of carbon: a quantity of carbon more than equal to the quantity contained in six pounds of beef.\* If carbon be indeed thrown off from the lungs so copiously; it must be produced within the body. It is difficult to account for the quantity of carbon thrown off, even on the lowest estimate. We are, therefore, necessarily obliged to conclude, that more solid matter is every day expelled

\* According to an elaborate analysis, by Berzelius; the muscle of an animal contains 77 per cent. of water, and 23 per cent. of other matters. Supposing, what is near the truth, that 22 of these 23 parts consist of albumen, and that this albumen contains half its weight of carbon; which in round numbers is a sufficiently near approximation; it follows, that 100 parts of the muscular fibre of animals, contain about 11 parts of carbon; so that 11 ounces of carbon must represent 100 ounces of beef; which is upwards of six pounds, as stated in the text.