

is far from possessing in reality ; an undeniable proof of which is to be found in comparing the flesh of young and old animals ; the former is tender and delicate ; the latter hard, dry, and unfit for eating.

While the body increases, the skin will stretch to any degree of tension ; but when the former diminishes, the latter never contracts ; and hence the source of wrinkles, which cannot be prevented. Those of the face proceed from this cause, though as to shape they depend in a greater measure on its form, features, and habitual movements. By examining the countenance of a man at the age of 25 or 30, we may discover in it the origin of all the wrinkles it will have in old age ; particularly when the features are in a state of agitation by laughing, weeping, or any strong grimace. All the little furrows formed by these agitations will one day become wrinkles, which no art shall be able to remove.

In proportion then as we advance in years, the bones, the cartilages, the membranes, the flesh, the skin, and all the fibres of the body grow more solid, hard, and dry. Every part shrinks, and every motion becomes more slow ; the circulation of the fluids is performed