

charged from the blood by means of the simple process of respiration.

In an illustration of the general question of the adaptation of external nature to the physical condition of man, it is clearly immaterial whether, during the process of respiration, the carbonic acid is supposed to be produced by the union of the carbon of the animal system with the oxygen of the air respired; or whether, as is possible, the carbonic acid, having been previously formed in the body at large, is given off in the form of carbonic acid gas from the lungs, while the oxygen gas of the atmosphere is absorbed by those organs. The main point to be considered is, the fact of the removal of that quantity of carbon, which could not be retained with safety to the life of the individual: and when we consider that the entire quantity of the carbon, thus discharged, is collected from every the most interior and remote part of the body, how worthy of admiration is the economy of nature in producing the intended effect! The air is the medium through which the carbon is to be discharged; and yet the constitution of the body is such, that the air could scarcely be introduced into any of its internal parts without occasioning the most serious consequences, if not death itself: but by means of the circulation of the blood, that beautiful contrivance intended primarily for