

It is not necessary here to dwell minutely on the disgusting alteration which the human beings, now particularized, undergo: those who are desirous of such information may consult a very recent work by Dr. James Johnson^o. All that is here intended is a statement of the general fact. And it appears that, in the milder instances, the principal alteration which takes place is an enlargement of the thyreoïd gland; which enlargement is by medical men called *bronchocele*, and by the inhabitants of the Alps *goitre*^p. In the instances of extreme alteration, the stature rarely reaches the height of five feet; the skin becomes unnaturally discoloured, and disfigured by eruptions; the limbs distorted; and the *cretin*, for so he is denominated in this state, is frequently, in addition, both deaf and dumb, and entirely idiotic. Between the state of simple goitre and that of most perfect cretinism the degree of alterations are innumerable. And, as indicating the connexion between this unnatural state of the individual, and the atmosphere which he habitually respire, the following observation is worthy of attention. “ In the

^o Change of Air, &c. by James Johnson, M. D. London, 8vo. 1831.

^p Such an enlargement we often in this country witness in individuals, who, in every other respect, are so far from being deformed, that they are frequently remarkable both on account of their beauty, and the symmetry and full developement of their whole body.