

cognate fruit, the lemon, at the same time that, on account of the grateful and aromatic flavour of its juice, it is occasionally as eagerly sought as the orange, serves a still higher purpose: for the acid contained in it has been successfully employed, as an antidote and a remedy for one of the most dreadful diseases to which mariners are subject. Sea-scurvy in fact has all but disappeared since the general adoption of this remedy<sup>e</sup>.

## SECT. IV.

*Vegetables as applicable to Medicine.*

IF vegetables are valuable on account of their power of affording sustenance and keeping the body in a state of health, they are also valuable on account of their power of restoring health where it has been impaired: for, however sceptical some minds may be as to the powers of medicine in general, and however ignorant even the most sagacious and experienced medical practitioners may be as to the precise mode in which any medical substance acts on the human constitution; yet this at least is certain, that, in by far the greater number of instances,

<sup>e</sup> It is probable that fresh vegetables of any kind are sufficient to prevent or to remove scurvy: for it is stated in Sauer's account of Billings's expedition, that that disease disappeared, even in so high a northern latitude as the Aleutan islands, as soon as the new vegetation sprang up in April (p. 276); and many other evidences of the same fact might be easily adduced.