ment when on the opposite surface it is day, with us it is night¹.

Although Lucretius, when speaking in general terms of the tendency of all heavy bodies to fall towards the earth, and of the acceleration of motion and increase of force which they acquire in falling, offers such an account of the facts as we might expect from his confused doctrine of atoms, and shews his ignorance of the real character of positive gravity; yet of the nature of relative or specific gravity, that is, of the cause why equal bulks of different bodies are of different weights, he gives the true explanation, by asserting that the heaviest bodies contain most matter, and consequently have fewest pores^m. That such pores exist not only in wool, and bodies of a similar texture, but even in those which are hard and compact, is proved, he affirms, by the percolation of water through the roofs of caverns; and from the transmission of the food both of animals and plants into their extreme limbs and branchesⁿ.

Lucretius considers *light* as a very subtle kind of matter, which, from its tenuity, is capable of inconceivably swift motion; the rapidity of which motion he instances in its nearly instantaneous diffusion through the whole

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¹ Lib. I. 1051—1065.

m Lib.VI. 334-346. and lib. I. 359-370.

ⁿ Lib. I. 347-354.