

From various phenomena, as from the drying of linen, or from its becoming damp without a visible accession or exhalation of particles of moisture, Lucretius argues that *water* is capable of existing in the state of an invisible vapour^e. He asserts also that its constant exhalation from the sea is proved by the corrosion of walls built near the sea-shore, and from the salt taste perceptible in our mouths while walking near the sea^f; and that, although this exhalation takes place in a small quantity only, at any given moment and from a given surface, the aggregate quantity, which is the ultimate result, is very great; and, lastly, that in consequence of this exhalation, the sea does not increase in quantity notwithstanding the constant influx of rivers, and the rain that falls into it^g. He notices moreover and accounts for the equality of the balance, between the quantity that falls into the sea from rain and rivers, and the quantity that is evaporated from the surface of it^h.

In speaking of *atmospherical air*, Lucretius maintains that, although in its nature invisible, and to all common perception intangible, from various phenomena it may be reasonably in-
the water is warmer than the air; for in stating that crocodiles commonly remain on the land during the day, but in the water during the night, he adds as a reason, that during the night the water is warmer than the air, (*ἀλεεινότερον γὰρ ἔστι τῆς αἰθρίας*. Ed. BEKKER. p. 37.)

^e Lib. I. 306—311.

^f Lib. IV. 219—227.

^g Lib. VI. 607—630.

^h Lib. V. 381—394.