

though it is probable, that the mean of the whole of such observations, if this mean could be accurately obtained, would differ little from the mean of those of the air.

SECTION II.

Of the actual Distribution of Temperature over the Earth. Of Isothermal Lines, &c. CLIMATE.

THE reader is supposed to be acquainted with the principles of the common division of the surface of the globe into five zones or portions, usually denominated the *torrid*, the two *frigid*, and the two intermediate, or *temperate zones*; and that generally speaking, the poles, and the equator, present the extremes of temperature upon the earth's surface. Now, in considering the general distribution of temperature over the globe, the extreme temperatures naturally claim our attention in an especial manner: we shall, therefore, in the first place, proceed to consider the temperature of the polar, and of the equatorial regions.

Of the Temperature of the Poles, and of the Polar Regions.—The probable mean temperature of the poles has always been an interesting subject of meteorological enquiry. It must be