

SECTION II.

Of the Secondary Constituents of Climate immediately connected with the Atmosphere.

THE phenomena of the atmosphere, originally constituted the proper study of the Meteorologist, and even yet they claim the largest share of his attention. The subject, in all its bearings, is very extensive, and many of the details are imperfectly understood. We shall endeavour to present a brief outline of the principal phenomena under the following heads.—*Of the distribution of heat and of light through the atmosphere, and of the consequences;—of the distribution of water through the atmosphere, and of the phenomena dependent on that distribution; and, lastly,—of the occasional presence of foreign bodies in the atmosphere.*

1. *Of the Distribution of Heat and of Light through the Atmosphere, and of the Consequences.*

—Every one is familiar with the general fact of the diminished temperature of the higher regions of our atmosphere; and that in the hottest countries, by ascending a lofty mountain, we encounter, at different heights, every variety of temperature, even to the temperature of per-