

change was first noticed. The air retained its augmented weight during the whole time these experiments were carried on, namely, about six weeks longer. The increase of the weight of the air observed in these experiments was small ; but still decided, and real. The method of conducting the experiments was such as not to allow of an error, at least to an amount so great as the additional weight, without the cause of that error having become apparent. There seems, therefore, to be only one mode of rationally explaining this increased weight of the air at London in February, 1832 ; which is, by admitting the diffusion of some gaseous body through the lower regions of the atmosphere of this city, considerably heavier than the air it displaced. About the 9th of February, the wind, which had previously been west, veered round to the east, and remained chiefly in that quarter till the end of the month. Now, precisely on the change of the wind, the first cases of epidemic cholera were reported in London ; and from that time the disease continued to spread. That the epidemic cholera was the effect of the peculiar condition of the atmosphere, is more perhaps than can be safely maintained ; but reasons, which have been advanced elsewhere, lead the writer of this treatise to believe, that the virulent disease, termed cholera, was owing to the same matter which produced the additional weight of