

fever, that there were hardly hands enough to bring the ships to anchor on their arrival there. But perhaps the most disastrous instance of the baneful effects of sickness in the public service, is in the expedition of Admiral Hosier, consisting of seven ships of the line, to the West Indies, to protect the trade in the year 1726. He buried his ships companies twice over, and in place of quelling and coercing the Spaniards, he was set at defiance and insulted by them, and died of a broken heart.\* The expedition to the same quarter under Admiral Vernon, in 1740, was hardly less calamitous. The sufferings and dangers of Commodore Anson's crew, as well as those of the Portuguese, have been already adverted to.

Since the middle of the last century, no expedition by sea can be said to have miscarried from the prevalence of disease alone: but in the course of the seven years war and the American war, six general engagements took place in the East Indies, every one of which were *drawn battles*. Is it not presumable that some of these might have proved *victories*, had it not been for the deficiency of hands in consequence of mortality and disease. The great difficulty, and even impossibility of replacing men on remote service, forms an additional motive for the study of health in distant and unhealthy climates. Lascars and Chinese were indeed from necessity, employed in ships of

\* See Charnock's *Biographia Navalis*.