

early in the disease, but, in cases of long continuance, they have certainly hastened the period of dissolution.

During the warm months of summer and autumn, swarms of flies are often found in those situations where putrefaction is going on. To such insects, an hospital, crowded with wounded, always becomes a desirable place of retreat. They come forth in immense multitudes, either impelled by hunger, or by the instinctive impulse of their nature to propagate their species amongst those putrid substances upon which they live. That state of the air which favours the decomposition of animal matter, seems, in a wonderful manner, to promote their rapid generation. When the earth had been refreshed by warm showers of rain, and again heated by the sun; when the winds were still, and the day or night felt close and oppressive, the succulent maggot appeared more immediately to be called into being. At such a period I have found numbers of them in the extremity of a stump, within the short space