

The attenuated state in which these gaseous emanations exist, is invisible to our perception. Chemical analysis has not yet detected their presence in the atmosphere. Though we may form an idea of their nature as associated with those substances from which we suppose them to be derived, and may almost define those bounds within which their noxious operations are going on ; yet our knowledge concerning the manner in which they are applied to the living system, is limited and obscure.

The effect of marsh-miasmata on the human body, is sometimes instantaneous. When marching through an unhealthy tract of the province, I have seen men, who had recently joined the army, suddenly seized with the symptoms of fever. Nausea, lassitude, giddiness, and confused vision, were the precursors of the disease. Others I have seen attacked with difficult respiration, fainting, and immobility of the limbs. Those affections were not, like the former, premonitory of fever; but seemed referable to the scorching heat of the