

## CHAPTER SEVENTH.

### OF THE BLOOD AND CIRCULATION.

227. THE nutritive portions of the food are poured into the general mass of fluid which pervades every part of the body, out of which every tissue is originally constructed, and from time to time renewed. This fluid, in the general acceptation of the term, is called blood ; but it differs greatly in its essential constitution in the different groups of the Animal Kingdom. In polypi and medusæ, it is merely chyme, (208 ;) in most mollusks and articulates it is chyle, (209 ;) but in vertebrates it is more highly organized, and constitutes what is properly called BLOOD.

228. The BLOOD, when examined by the microscope, is found to consist of a transparent fluid, the *serum*, consisting chiefly of albumen, fibrin, and water, in which float many rounded, somewhat compressed bodies, called blood disks.

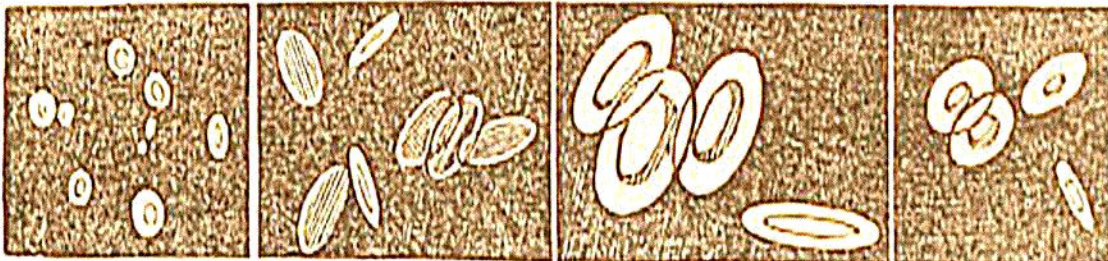


Fig. 78.

Fig. 79.

Fig. 80.

Fig. 81.

These vary in number with the natural heat of the animal from which the blood is taken. Thus, they are more nu-