

lowed by the regulated contractions of the different parts of the throat. It now passes along a muscular tube, called the *Œsophagus*, (represented in the diagram by the letter o,) into the stomach, (s,) of which the entrance (c) is called the *cardia*.

In the stomach the food is made to undergo various chemical changes; after which it is conducted through the aperture termed the *pylorus* (p,) into the canal of the intestine (i i,) where it is farther subjected to the action of several fluid secretions derived from large glandular organs situated in the neighbourhood, as the liver (l) and the pancreas; and elaborated into the fluid which is termed *Chyle*.

The Chyle is taken up by a particular set of vessels, called the *Lacteals*, which transmit it to the heart (h.) These vessels are exceedingly numerous, and arise by open orifices from the inner surface of the intestines, whence they absorb, or drink up the chyle. They may be compared to internal roots, which unite as they ascend along the *mesentery* (m,) or membrane connecting the intestines with the back forming larger and larger trunks, till they terminate in an intermediate reservoir (r,) which has been named the *Receptacle of the Chyle*. From this receptacle there proceeds a tube, which from its passing through the thorax, is called the *Thoracic duct* (τ;) it ascends along the side of the spine, which protects it from compression, and opens at v, into the large veins which are pouring their contents into the *auricle*, or first cavity of the heart (u,) whence it immediately passes into the *ventricle*, or second cavity of that organ (h.) Such in the more perfect animals, is the circuitous and guarded route, which every particle of nourishment must take before it can be added to the general mass of circulating fluid.

By its admixture with the blood already contained in these vessels, and its purification by the action of the air in the respiratory organs (b,) the chyle becomes assimilated, and is distributed by the heart through appropriate channels of circulation called *arteries* (of which the common trunk,