In the animal kingdom we observe these processes multiplied to a still greater extent; and the resulting substances are even farther removed from the original condition of unorganized matter.   In the first place, the food of animals, instead of being simple, like that of plants, has always undergone previous preparation; for it has either constituted a portion of some other organized being, or it has been a product of organization; in each case, therefore, partaking of that complexity of composition which characterizes organized bodies.   Still, whatever may be its qualities when received into the stomach, it is soon converted by the powers of digestion into a milky, or transparent fluid, having nearly the same uniform properties.   We have seen that there is scarcely any animal or vegetable substance, however dense its texture, or virulent its qualities, but is capable of affording nourishment to various species of animals. Let us take as an example the elytra of cantharides, which are such active stimulants when applied in powder to the skin in the ordinary mode of blistering: we find that, notwithstanding their highly acrid qualities, they constitute the natural food of several species of insects, which devour them with great avidity; and yet the fluids of these insects, though derived from this pungent food, are perfectly bland, and devoid of all acrimony.   Cantharides are also, according to Pallas, the favourite food of the hedge-hog; although to other mammalia they are highly poisonous.   It has also been found that even those animal secretions, (such as the venom of the rattle-snake,) which, when infused into a wound, even in the minutest quantity, prove quickly fatal, may be taken into the stomach without producing any deleterious effects.   These, and a multitude of other well-known facts, fully prove how completely substances received as aliment may be modified, and their properties changed, or even reversed, by the powers of animal digestion.

No less remarkable are the transmutations, which the blood itself, the result of these previous processes, is subse-