

to be adapted for forming a constituent principle of a living organized being. It was necessary, therefore, to have a connecting medium, or link, that should unite organization with the mineral constituent; and phosphorus admirably accomplishes this object. Accordingly, we see, that organization goes on in conjunction with lime in the bones of animals, through the medium of this element, quite as readily as in other parts of their system: whereas, when phosphorus is absent, as in shells, and in other deposits of carbonate of lime; the carbonate of lime is extravascular, and seems to form no part of the living system. There are also other important offices, which this principle evidently performs in the animal economy; some of which we shall have occasion to refer to, hereafter.

(12) *Sulfur*. This well known substance is one of the very few that exist naturally in an elementary state. It is a very abundant, and probably, important, principle in the economy of nature; as it not only exists in large quantities in the mineral kingdom, but in a greater or less proportion, in almost all animal, and in many vegetable products. Its uses, however, at present, are very imperfectly understood. Sulfur combines with hydrogen, and forms a very deleterious gaseous compound. Its combinations with oxygen are generally acid, and very active in their concentrated form; but not poisonous.