

of forming a part of a living organized being ; at least in any quantity. This earth, as formerly noticed, constitutes with phosphorus and oxygen, the basis of the bones of animals ; and with carbon and oxygen, all the endless variety of shells, and similar products. Thus the properties of lime, furnish another striking instance of adaptation to a particular purpose. The compounds of potash and soda are all very soluble in water, and hence are chiefly confined to the *fluids* of animals ; in which their presence is indispensable. But a solid frame work, or skeleton, was necessary to the existence of the more perfect animals ; and as this could not be formed from the soluble potash or soda ; the introduction of another mineral substance, possessed of the requisite properties, was necessary. Now lime, some of the compounds of which are *solid*, and some *fluid*, is admirably adapted for the purpose ; and lime accordingly has been chosen : the lime is carried, in a state of solution, to the spot where it is required, and is there converted into a *solid* ; while by the same agency, when necessary, this solid is again converted into a fluid and removed !

(28) *Magnesium*, is the metallic basis of the well-known earth, called *magnesia*. It is said to resemble calcium in its properties ; and like that principle, does not exist naturally, at least upon the surface of our globe. *Magnesia*, though oc-