

the alimentary canal. The upper space between the two orifices is usually termed the small curvature; the lower space, the great curvature, of the stomach. Numerous glands occupy the internal surface of the stomach, particularly near its pyloric orifice. By these glands a fluid is secreted of the highest importance in the digestive functions. On the nature of that fluid we shall enlarge hereafter.

Such is the stomach of man; but the form and the magnitude of the organ vary almost infinitely in different animals, according to the nature of their food, and other circumstances. We can, at present, notice only two or three of the most remarkable diversities. The stomach of most carnivorous animals, bears a resemblance to the stomach of man. There is also a resemblance, at least externally, in certain herbivorous animals; as in the horse, the rabbit, and others. The internal arrangements, however, are different; thus, in the animals above mentioned, the left or cardiac half of the stomach is lined with cuticle; while the other half, towards the pylorus, has the usual villous and secreting surface. Hence, these two portions of the stomach perform very different offices, and generally contain food in very different states of reduction. But the most complicated and artificial arrangements, both with respect to the structure of the parts, and the lining membranes,