

of digestion, is submitted to a preliminary arterializing process in the liver ; before it is remingled with the venous blood from the rest of the body. That is to say, the veins from the organs of digestion, unite into one large tube termed the *vena portæ* ; which tube, entering the liver, is there again subdivided, in the same manner as an artery. These ultimate subdivisions of the *vena portæ*, together with the similar subdivisions of the proper artery of the liver, coalesce ; and from the blood thus mixed, the bile is separated. The coalesced blood vessels assuming the character of veins, then gradually unite, and at length form two or three large tubes, which empty themselves into the general veins going to the heart ; while the hepatic ducts, uniting in like manner, convey the bile to the gall-bladder. Such are the principal facts connected with the circulation of the blood in the abdominal viscera ; and with the secretion of the bile. We shall soon have occasion to bring them to the recollection of the reader.

When speaking of organic agents, we noticed the probability of the opinion, that in living beings, there exists a series of agencies gradually raised one above another ; each agency having more or less control over all those below itself. Now, in the digestive and assimilating functions, we appear to have, as we might expect, the lowest of these agencies. The agencies operating in