fication of the albuminous principle. Another modification of the same principle is the substance called *gluten*; this substance though most abundant in vegetables, so far resembles the fleshy parts of animals, as to be, in like manner, capable of separation into two portions, analogous to gelatine and albumen. Neither of these modifications of albumen exhibits the quality possessed by gelatine, of being artificially convertible into saccharine matter; at least by any known process: but all of them, including gelatine, differ from the oleaginous and the saccharine principles, in this respect; that they contain a fourth elementary principle, namely, azote. The exact composition of the albuminous group cannot at present be stated.

Such are the *three great staminal principles*, from which all organized bodies are essentially constituted. Of these staminal principles it has already been remarked, that, without any alteration of their essential composition, they are capable of assuming an infinite variety of modified forms; many of which are so peculiar, that from their sensible properties, it is very difficult to recognise their identity. Moreover, these staminal principles, in all their forms, are capable of readily passing into one another, and of combining with each other; at least the organic agents, as we shall see hereafter, have the power of effecting such changes. Further, these sta-