

minal principles are all susceptible of transmutation into new principles, according to certain laws: thus the saccharine principle is readily convertible into the acid, termed oxalic; or, under other circumstances, into the modification of the oleaginous principle, alcohol. Though an endless variety of these modifications of the staminal principles exist in different organized beings, accompanied by numerous foreign bodies; still the proportion they bear to the staminal principles is very limited; and they are either confined to glandular secretions; or are excrementitious; or extravascular: that is to say, these modifications and combinations form no part of the living animal; though they are attached to it: as in the case of the various products of secretion; the shells of the molluscous tribes; and many others.

The consequence then, to which we before alluded is; that as all the more perfect organized beings feed on other organized beings, *their food must necessarily consist of one or more of the three staminal principles of organization.* Hence, it not only follows, as before observed, that in the more perfect animals, all the antecedent labour of preparing these compounds *de novo*, is avoided; but that a diet to be complete, must contain more or less of all the three staminal principles. Such, at least, must be the diet of the higher classes of animals, and especially of