

man. It cannot indeed be doubted that many animals, on an emergency, have the power of forming a chyle from one of these classes of aliments; but that any of the higher animals can be so nourished for an unlimited time, is exceedingly improbable. Nay, if we judge according to what is known from universal observation, as well as from experiments which have been actually made by physiologists regarding food; we are led to the directly opposite conclusion: namely, that the more perfect animals could not exist on one class of aliments; but that a mixture, of two at least, if not of all the three staminal principles, is necessary to form an alimentary compound well-adapted to their use.

This view of the nature of aliments is singularly illustrated and maintained by the familiar instance of the composition of *Milk*. All other matters appropriated by animals as food, exist for themselves; or for the use of the vegetable or animal of which they form a constituent part. But milk is designed and prepared by nature expressly as food; and it is the *only material* throughout the range of organization that is so prepared. In milk, therefore, we should expect to find a model of what an alimentary substance ought to be—a kind of prototype, as it were, of nutritious materials in general. Now, every sort of milk that is known, is a mixture of the three staminal principles we have described;