

1. *Of the Reducing Powers of the Stomach.*—In order to render more intelligible that function of the stomach, which is performed by means of its reducing power; let us endeavour to trace the series of phenomena, which appear to arise during the conversion of simple albuminous matter into the albumen of the chyme; without taking into account any other change.

When a portion of fluid albumen, like the white of an egg, or milk, is introduced into the stomach of an animal, as of a dog; it instantly becomes solid; or, in ordinary language, is *coagulated*. This coagulation is probably a mere chemical change; for the same change, would, under similar circumstances, take place out of the body. That is to say; if the white of an egg, or milk, were mixed with a fluid more or less acid, like the fluid which exists in the stomachs of animals while the food is undergoing the process of digestion; the white of egg, and milk, would be coagulated. There may be, however, and probably is, some object in the change produced by coagulation; since the stomachs of animals are fitted to operate chiefly on solid matters. Admitting the object of the change, we can hardly consider it to be essential to the subsequent processes; for gelatine, a staminal alimentary principle, nearly resembling albumen in its composition, undergoes, under similar circumstances, no such solidifying