

change. The albumen which has by the coagulating influences of the juices of the stomach, been solidified into a mass or curd, is soon altered further; more especially that part of the mass, immediately in contact with the membrane of the stomach. The curdy mass assumes a gelatinous appearance; then each portion is successively more and more softened; till at length, the whole becomes nearly fluid, and after some additional modifications, gradually passes into the state of chyme. Through all these apparent changes, however, the albumen has undergone no real change. What was introduced into the stomach as albumen, is still albumen in the chyme; at least chemists have pronounced it to be so. Yet the albumen has assumed an appearance altogether different. The albumen of the egg, out of the stomach, may be coagulated by heat, into a firm and elastic solid. The albumen of the chyme is indeed coagulable by heat; but its coagulation is so imperfect, and so wanting in tenacity, as to offer a striking contrast with the coagulated albumen of the egg. What then, in the stomach, has happened to the albumen? Viewing only its susceptibility of coagulation, the albumen has merely become chemically combined with a portion of water. The solid and tenacious albumen has, by this combination with water, been reduced to the *weakest* possible state—to