

secondary uneasiness, but more or less retards the process of reduction itself. The source of this chlorine or muriatic acid, must be the common salt which exists in the blood: to suppose that it is generated, is quite unnecessary. The chlorine is therefore secreted from the blood; and it may be demanded, what is the nature of the agency, capable of separating chlorine from a fluid so heterogeneous as the blood? We are acquainted with one agent that exerts such a power; namely electricity: and this agent, as we formerly observed, seems to be employed by the animal economy for its operations, in the same manner, and on the same principles, as the materials themselves are employed, from which the animal body is constructed. Perhaps, therefore, the decomposition of the salt of the blood may be fairly referred to the immediate agency of this principle, electricity. But here the question arises—What becomes of the soda from which the muriatic acid has been disunited? The soda remains behind, of course, in the blood, and a portion of it, no doubt, is requisite to preserve the weak alkaline condition essential to the fluidity of the blood. But the larger part of this soda is probably directed to the liver, and is elicited with the bile in the duodenum; where it is thus again brought into union with the acid, which had been separated from the blood by the stomach. These observations, illustrating the