

not only in the stomach, but in every part of an animal body. In all animals there are minute tubes, called absorbents, which originate in every part of their bodies, and at length uniting, enter the sanguiferous system along with the chyle. Now, the office of these tubes, is to remove all the portions of the animal frame, which after having performed their several functions, require to be withdrawn. Of course, before solid parts can be thus removed, they must be dissolved, (*digested* in fact); and such solution, in many instances, is probably effected, as it is in digestion, by combining these solid parts with water. This supposed analogy between the solvent actions of the stomach, and those actions which must prevail all over the body, seems to be strongly confirmed by that similarity of structure and of function existing between the lacteals and the absorbents: they indeed form but one system. We shall resume this subject hereafter.

2. *Of the Powers of Conversion possessed by the Stomach.*—Though the proportions of the different ingredients of the chyle, as ultimately formed, are liable to be much varied, according to the nature of the food; yet, whatever the nature of the food may be, the general composition and character of the chyle, remain always the same. The stomach must, therefore, be endowed