

with a power or faculty, the agency of which is to secure this uniform composition of the chyle, by appropriate action upon such materials as circumstances may bring within its reach. Two, indeed, of the chief materials from which chyle is formed, namely, the albuminous and the oleaginous principles, may be considered to be already fitted for the purposes of the animal economy, without undergoing any essential change in their composition. But the saccharine class of aliments, which form a very large part of the food of all animals, except of those subsisting entirely on flesh, are by no means adapted for such speedy assimilation. Indeed, one or more essential changes must take place in saccharine aliments, previously to their conversion, either into the albuminous, or into the oleaginous principles. Most probably, under ordinary circumstances, these essential changes are altogether chemical; that is to say, these changes are such as do take place, or rather, such as would take place, if the elements of the substances thus changed in the stomach, could, out of the body, be so collocated, as to bring into action the affinities necessary for the changes produced in the stomach. Thus, as we know, the saccharine principle spontaneously becomes alcohol; which, as has been stated, is merely an oleaginous body of a weak kind. When, therefore, in the stomach, it is requisite