

may, and perhaps will, be traced, by care and attention; but all beyond, will probably remain for ever unknown to us. Now at least, though we understand, in some degree, the chemical changes; of the vitalizing influence, we in truth know absolutely nothing. There is, however, every reason to believe that vitality is imparted through the agency of the living animal itself. For though, from the natural composition of alimentary substances, they be, to a certain extent, fitted for the purposes of the animal economy; yet, alone, they are incapable of uniting themselves with the animal frame; and unless the living economy contribute likewise its share of the labour, the future work of assimilation will be incomplete.

*Of the Changes the Food undergoes in the Duodenum.*—We alluded in general terms to the bile and the pancreatic fluids, when we were treating of the organs by which these fluids are secreted. We have now to consider, more particularly, the nature of these secretions, and their share in the performance of the functions of the duodenum.

With the yellow colour, and the intensely bitter taste of the *bile*, all are familiar: we need not, therefore, dwell on the sensible properties of the secretion, but proceed to notice its chemical composition. The chemical composition of the bile is very heterogeneous, though not perhaps so heterogeneous as has been repre-