

duced on the food by the action of the duodenum have been examined. These phenomena appear to vary considerably, according to the nature of the food: but so far as we can understand the phenomena; under every change of food, the essential character of the changes which the food undergoes in the duodenum, remains unaltered. That is to say: the acid formed in the stomach, combines, in the duodenum, with the alkali of the bile; the albuminous principles are developed; and the excrementitious matters are, more or less perfectly, separated. Of the nature of the more recondite and vitalizing changes which take place in the duodenum; we are in the same state of complete ignorance, as we are of the similar changes which take place in the stomach; and probably shall long so remain.

In the preceding remarks on the different processes which take place in the stomach and duodenum, and which are necessary for the conversion of the food of an animal into the living material of its body; we have endeavoured to distinguish between what, to a certain extent, is within our powers of comprehension, and what is completely beyond them. It remains to be observed in conclusion, that though the three great and essential processes of digestion, namely, the reducing, the converting, and the organizing processes are sufficiently distinct from each other; yet it is not to be understood