

are most numerous in those parts of the canal nearest to the stomach. From the ilium, the undigested or excrementitious matters proceed into the cœcum; in which cavity, in some animals, as for example, in the horse, even these excrementitious matters appear to undergo a second digestion; but in all animals, the contents of the cœcum have a very different aspect from the contents of any part of the alimentary canal nearer to the stomach. The mass of excrementitious matters continue their course from the cœcum into the colon, where they are still further changed. The nature of these changes, however, is not well understood, though they are probably of no small importance in the animal economy. Finally, all the nutritious portions of the food, having entered into the system of the animal; nothing remains but what is entirely excrementitious.

Such is a short sketch of the phenomena of digestion and assimilation, in so far as these processes are effected by the stomach and the alimentary canal. The phenomena suggest the following reflections:

First. With regard to the nature and the choice of aliments, and the modes of their culinary preparation; it follows from the observations we have offered; that, under similar circumstances, those articles of food which are the least organized, must be the most difficult to be