

## CHAPTER IV.

OF THE PROCESSES OF ASSIMILATION SUBSEQUENT TO THOSE PROCESSES WHICH THE FOOD UNDERGOES IN THE STOMACH AND ALIMENTARY CANAL; PARTICULARLY OF THE CONVERSION OF THE CHYLE INTO BLOOD. OF RESPIRATION, AND ITS USES. OF SECRETION. OF THE FINAL DECOMPOSITION OF ORGANIZED BODIES. GENERAL REFLECTIONS, AND CONCLUSION.

1. *Of the Passage of the Chyle from the Alimentary Canal into the Sanguiferous System; and of the Function of Absorption generally.*—The Chyle, as we have already said, is taken up from the alimentary canal, by numerous minute tubes, named *lacteals*; these tubes being part of the system of similar tubes, which arise from all parts of the body, and are termed *absorbents*. The whole of the absorbing tubes, after passing through various glands, at length unite into one or two of larger size; the recipient tube on the left side being by far the largest, and known by the appellation of the *thoracic duct*. These larger absorbent tubes pour their contained fluids into the veins named the *sub-clavian*; and