

very probable, that in the body of an animal or vegetable there is formed a separation of the brute particles of the aliments and the organic ; that the first are carried off by the causes just mentioned ; that only organic particles remain, and that the distribution of them is made by means of some active power which conducts them to every part in an exact proportion, insomuch that neither receive more or less than is needful for its equal nutrition, growth, or expansion.

The second question, What can be the active power which causes this organic matter to penetrate and incorporate itself with this internal mould ? By the preceding chapter it appears, that there exists in Nature powers relative to the internal part of matter, and which have no relation with its external qualities. These powers, as already observed, will never come under our cognizance, because their action is made on the internal part of the body, whereas our senses cannot reach beyond what is external ; it is therefore evident, that we shall never have a clear idea of the penetrating powers, nor of the manner by which they act ; but it is not less certain that they exist, than that by their means most effects of Nature are produced ;

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