

all the recesses of the rays ; and, in color and structure, resembles the liver of mollusks. Even in polyps, we find peculiar brown cells lining the digestive cavity, which, probably, perform functions similar to those of the liver in the higher animals.

270. The great importance of the respiratory organs in discharging carbon from the blood has already been spoken of, (245, 251.) The substances removed by the liver and the lungs are of the same class, being those which are destitute of nitrogen. These organs seem, in some sense, subsidiary to each other ; and hence, in those animals where the respiratory organs are largely developed, the biliary organs are comparatively small, and vice versa. Another and opposite class of impurities, and no less pernicious if retained in the blood, is removed by the KIDNEYS ; and, consequently, organs answering to the kidneys are found very far down in the series of animals. Most of the peculiar ingredients of the urine are capable of assuming solid, crystalline forms ; and, in some animals, as in reptiles and birds, the whole secretion of the kidneys is solid. In most cases, however, the urinary salts are largely diluted with water ; and, as the lungs and liver are supplementary to each other in the removal of carbon, so the lungs, the kidneys, and the skin mutually relieve each other in the removal of the watery portions of the blood.