

those principles in which oxygen predominates ; which have usually an *acid* character. Besides these three great classes of vegetable principles ; there are some which contain azote, and perhaps other elements. Many vegetable principles, also, exhibit weak alkaline powers : such are the peculiar principles of Opium and other Narcotics ; also of Cinchona ; and a variety of others, chiefly employed in Medicine.

## SECTION II.

*Of the Modes of Nutrition in Animals ; and of the Alimentary Substances by which they are nourished.*

To beings, like animals, endowed with locomotive powers, the absorption of their nourishment from without, would have been exceedingly inconvenient. Animals have, therefore, been furnished with an additional receptacle and apparatus subservient to nutrition ; into which, as inclination or circumstances may prompt them, their food is conveyed at intervals ; and from which, after having undergone certain changes, the food is absorbed, and distributed over their system, as the exigencies of that system may require. Hence the distinction between