

ever may be the nature of the alimentary matters; these matters, after having been retained for some time in the organs appropriated to nutrition, are reduced, more or less, to a fluid state—are DIGESTED, in the common sense of the term, and are converted into what is denominated *chyme*. The more nutritious parts of the fluid chyme, or the *chyle* as they are denominated, are then absorbed, and distributed through the system for the reparation of the animal; while the insoluble and other matters, are separated as excrementitious.

We have already alluded to the endless diversity observable in the form and arrangements of the alimentary canal in the different kinds of animals. A few of the most remarkable of these diversities among the more perfect animals will be noticed, in the following outline of the alimentary canal as existing in the human body.

*Of the Mouth and its Appendages.*—“In no apparatus put together by art,” says Paley, “do I know such multifarious uses so aptly contrived as in the natural organization of the human mouth.” “In this small cavity we have teeth of different shape,—first for cutting, secondly for grinding; muscles most artificially disposed for carrying on the compound motion of the lower jaw, half lateral and half vertical, by which the mill is worked; fountains of saliva springing up in different parts of the cavity for the moistening