

is connected with the digestive and assimilating functions of animals.

In the general circulation of the blood through an animal body ; a large tube or artery, communicating with the heart, is gradually subdivided as it is prolonged from that organ, till its subdivisions finally become imperceptible. The arteries, in this state of minute subdivision, assume the character of veins. The veins, in their progress, undergo a change, the reverse of the change undergone by the arteries : they unite gradually, and, at length, form one or two principal tubes, which proceed to the side of the heart opposite to where the artery originates. Such is the circulation of the blood through the body generally : the circulation through the lungs is merely a repetition of the same arrangement. Throughout the body, therefore, the general motion of the blood in arteries is from greater to smaller tubes ; while in the veins, the motion is from smaller to greater tubes. By a beautiful provision, the veins are also furnished with valves ; which most effectually prevent the regurgitation of the blood : without such valves, the blood could scarcely flow in a regular stream. We have introduced these remarks, with the view of stating, that the circulation of the blood through the organs of digestion, presents a remarkable exception to the general circulation of the body. The venous blood, from the organs