

stances with water is effected in the stomach, we cannot be said to possess much certain knowledge. This combination appears to be chiefly owing to the agency of a fluid, secreted by the stomach ; the glands for the formation of which fluid, are most numerous toward the pyloric orifice. The aliment having been previously broken down by mastication, and having received an admixture of saliva and of other fluids, is brought into contact with the fluid secreted by the stomach : by this secretion of the stomach, or by some other energy exerted in that organ, the food which has been introduced into the stomach is associated with water ; and thus becomes itself more or less a fluid. Of this important secretion of the stomach, *chlorine*, in some state or other of combination, is an ingredient : it would seem a necessary ingredient ; for the secretion in its healthy state, always contains more or less of chlorine ; the powerful influence of which elementary principle, seems mainly to contribute towards effecting the union of the food with water. The chlorine, thus so indispensable to the reducing process, is perhaps more frequently the subject of derangement, than any thing concerned with the assimilation of the food. It often happens that instead of chlorine, or a little free muriatic acid, a large quantity of free muriatic acid is elicited ; which free muriatic acid not only gives rise to much