

importance of common salt in the animal economy, seem to explain, in a satisfactory manner, that instinctive craving after this substance, which is shown by all animals.

Admitting that the decomposition of the salt of the blood is owing to the immediate agency of galvanism : we have, in the principal digestive organs, a kind of galvanic apparatus ; of which the mucous membrane of the stomach, and perhaps the mucous membrane of the intestinal canal generally, may be considered as the acid or positive pole ; while the hepatic system may, on the same view, be considered as the alkaline or negative pole. Whether such galvanic action be admitted or not ; and the admission is of no very great importance ; what we have above stated may be received as a simple expression of the facts, in so far as they relate to the saline constituents of the blood. Moreover, be the nature of the energies what they may, by which these changes are effected ; along with these changes, and probably by the aid of the same energies, other very important changes or processes are carried on, to some of which we shall presently have occasion to allude. In the mean time, we may close this account of the preliminary function of the stomach, by noticing the strong grounds there are to believe, that the solvent power, which we have described, or some power having a great resemblance to it, exists