

that they take place in succession, or in the order in which they have been described. The fact is, all these processes go on at the same time; and as soon as a portion of food begins to be dissolved, its future changes seem to be determined. If it be necessary that the portion of food undergo an essential change; that change is accordingly begun. If no such change be required; the organizing process itself begins simultaneously with the reducing process. The consequence of this union of the digestive processes is, as we have stated, that the staminal principles are all developed in the chyle; as soon as the excrementitious matters are separated by the biliary and pancreatic fluids.

4. *Of the Functions of the Alimentary Canal, beyond the Duodenum.*—Compared with the functions of the stomach and duodenum, the functions of the succeeding portions of the alimentary canal, as far as we can judge, are unimportant. The digested mass passes from the duodenum into the jejunum, and ilium; though before the food reaches the end of the ilium, the whole of the chyle contained in it, has been absorbed into the apertures of the numerous tubes named *lacteals*. These tubes open into the whole interior surface of the three portions of the alimentary canal, along which the food is moved from the stomach to the colon: but the lacteals