

2. *Of the Blood.*—The blood is that well-known fluid pervading the tubes, named from their function the *blood vessels*; which tubes are extended more or less over every part of an animal. We have already described the general distribution of the blood vessels; and shall now confine ourselves chiefly to the properties of the blood itself.

The chyle, as we have stated, is poured into the general mass of the blood near the heart; and from the heart is almost immediately propelled through the lungs. The chyle, thus set in motion, is not only united thoroughly with the blood; but undergoes those other important changes, by which its final conversion into blood is accomplished. The exact nature of these changes is unknown; but they are evidently of a completing character—that is to say, the weak hydrated ingredients of the chyle, are freed from a portion of the water with which they were associated; and are transmuted into the strong albuminous matter of the blood.

The chief constituents of the blood are essentially albuminous. Blood contains albumen in three states of modification: namely, *albumen*, properly so called; *fibrin*; and the *red particles*. In addition, there are *oily* matters; besides various minute portions of other animal matters, and *saline* matters, all dissolved, or rather suspended, in a large quantity of water. The fol-