

extricated in a gaseous condition. Finally, both vegetable and animal matters, but vegetable matters more especially, are reduced to the state of mould. The mould from vegetable matters, consists principally of carbon, in combination with a little oxygen or hydrogen: the mould from animal bodies, contains the same elements as vegetable mould, together with a little azote, and the usual saline ingredients of organized substances. In this form of mould, the remains of vegetables and of animals, as was before stated, constitute the food of plants. By plants these remains are again organized, and thus go through the same series of changes.

We may here pause for a moment, and, on account of the general reader, briefly recapitulate the most striking facts, which have been detailed in the present, and in the preceding chapters.

In the first place, the *mechanical arrangements* for reducing the food of animals to the proper degree of comminution, are wonderfully varied; according to the peculiar qualities of that food. In the graminivorous and granivorous tribes, for example, the teeth are literally instruments for grinding or triturating herbaceous matters, and seeds. In carnivorous animals, such a structure would be useless: the teeth, therefore, are suited only for cutting, or tearing. In gnawing animals, the teeth present a totally different