

biliary and the pancreatic fluids. The alkali of the bile unites with the acid, with which the food had been mingled during its digestion in the stomach ; the excrementitious parts, both of the food, and of the bile, are separated or precipitated ; while at the same time, the proper chylous principles are eliminated, in a condition appropriate for their absorption by the lacteals.

There are two divisions of those minute tubes, composing what is termed the absorbent system of animals ;—the lacteals—and the absorbents properly so called. The ultimate ramifications of the lacteals, originate from the internal surface of the alimentary canal, where they take up the digested, and partly assimilated, aliment, or chyle. The ultimate ramifications of the proper absorbents, originate from all parts of the body ; and are enabled to take up, by some peculiar process, every component of the body, solid as well as fluid, in the same manner as the chyle is taken up by the lacteals.

The fluid obtained from the lacteals, and the fluid obtained from the proper absorbents, are both alike albuminous. The albumen of the chyle, as we have formerly shown, is produced in the stomach and duodenum, while the food is undergoing the process of digestion. But whence is derived the albumen, found in the proper absorbents ? The animal body we know to be composed of a great variety of matters,