

among which gelatine predominates. Now, since albumen only, is found in the absorbents; it follows, that the gelatine of the body previously to its being taken up by the absorbents, is re-converted into albumen: in other words, the absorbed gelatine undergoes a process, entirely analogous to that process which gelatine, and other matters, undergo in the stomach and duodenum, during the process of digestion. Hence, the digestive process, instead of being confined to the stomach and duodenum, is actually carried on without intermission, in all parts of a living animal body.

The two kinds of fluid albumen derived from these two sources; that is to say, the crude chyle in the lacteals, and the highly animalized lymph in the absorbents, are at length commingled; and form one uniform fluid of an intermediate character, adapted for becoming a part of the general mass of the blood. The character, however, of this fluid, when it becomes part of the blood, though albuminous, is still very *weak*; that is to say, the commingled fluid from the lacteals and from the absorbents consists of albumen, holding a large proportion of water in a state of essential combination. By a beautiful arrangement, as soon as this weak albuminous fluid has joined the stream of blood, it is hurried through the lungs; where it undergoes a remarkable change. In the lungs, the