With regard to the production of nervous matter, which animals alone can form, we see, from its composition, intermediate between that of albumen and fat, that it may be formed, either by depriving albuminous of some azotized product, or by adding to fat an azotised compound. Where it is formed we do not know, but it must be formed in the animal body; and Liebig has suggested, that the power of the vegetable alkalies to effect the nervous system may be owing to their composition, which approches nearer to that of nervous matter than any other compounds. These alkalies may promote or check the formation of nervous matter, and thus produce their peculiar effects.

These observations tend to show, that we may expect in progress of time to explain a large class of phenomena connected with animal life on chemical principles. We cannot do so yet, notwithstanding the plainness of the views, propounded by Liebig. He may have opened up the true path, but it is for experimenters to pursue it with research and perseverence, in order to confirm or refute his views. As yet, philosophers are by no means agreed as to the circumstances which regulate the process of digestion; some would ascribe our ignorance of it on account of the intricacy of the subject, the obseurity which attends it, and the deficiency of observation as to the true nature of the process; whilst others regard the process as simple, referring the preparation of the food in the stomach to the presence of an acid in that organ, which dissolves the food, and enables it to enter as a constituent of the circulating fluids of the animal system. The acid which affects this important object is the hydro-chloric acid, which they consider to have been satisfactorily proved to be present-during the period when food exists in the stomach; and they conceive they can imitate the process of animal digestion in glass, or other vessels of the body, siraply by exposing animal and vegetable food to the influence of dilute acids. The subject is not so very simple in nature as it would seem to be when conducted in a glass vessel. There are indications, no doubt, of the direction in which we are to search for a solution of the difficulties of the subject, but we are still at a great distance from the elucidation of the precise manner in which annimals digest their food.

"There cannot be a doubt, as Dr. R. D. Thomsom observes "that if we understood the nature of the process by which the food which we swallow is converted into living flesh, important results would follow in reference to the preservation of the health of animals, and the treatment of the descases. If we were properly acquainted with every transformation though which the constituents of the food pass, after it has been masticated, until it is finally removed from the system, it is clear that, in case the stomach is unable to perform its accustomed functions, the assistance of art ought to be called in to assist digestion." If Dr Thomson, who has experimented so largely on the subject, feels any difficulty in it, it must indeed be difficult. His own researches where conducted with a view to arriving at a practical result--namely the comparative effects of certain given articles of f_{abs} on the fattening or secreting power of animals; and these seem to demonstrate that the fat of animals cannot be produced from the oil of the food, but must be evolved from the calorifiant or heat-forming portion of the animal essentially assisted by its nitrogenous materials. By following out this principle, he has been enable to detect one important relation, existing between the nutritive and colorifiant portion of the food, upon the determination of which, for the various conditions of animals, he considers the laws of animal dieting depend. endeavoured to apply the law to various articles of human food, and he trusts that the basis has been laid for future researches, which may be directed to administer to the health and comfort of mankind, and of the demesticated animals. In conducting the experiments upon cattle, he found not only his habitual acquaintance with animals, but also his medical knowledge, in continual requisition, in consequence of the tendency of the varied condition of the animal system, from