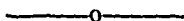


them to avail themselves of bargains, but where this is done do not let them use them till thoroughly purified—which is not difficult, as has been shewn under the several articles of disinfectives.



PROCESS OF DIGESTION.

The actions to which food is submitted are performed within certain mechanical limits ; they may be classified under four heads, viz. :

The actions of the mouth and gullet.

The actions of the stomach.

The actions of the small intestines.

The actions of the large intestines.

In the first we may include mastication and insalivation. Mastication consists in the cutting and tituration of the food by the teeth ; during this process the food is mixed with the saliva. This substance is a mixture of four fluids of different properties secreted from the parotid, submaxillary, sublingual and buccal glands. The saliva is a slightly viscid transparent fluid, alkaline in reaction. It possesses the important property of converting *starch* into *sugar*. It also serves to soften the mass of food in the mouth during mastication ; it lubricates it, and thus facilitates its passage down the œsophagus to the stomach. The mass is propelled down by a series of relaxations and contractions to the stomach.

In shape, the stomach resembles the pouch of a bag-pipe ; it is capable of great alterations in size. The capacity of the dead stomach is about two quarts ; the walls consist of three coats, viz : Serous membrane, muscular layer and mucous lining ; all three are not thicker than card-board. It has two openings, the cardiac where the œsophagus enters, and pyloric, the commencement of the small intestines.