## DIGESTION OF FOOD.

taken up by the absorbent vessels. As soon, however, as the formation of the chyme has been duly perfected, it is passed from the fourth stomach into the duodenum, which is the highest part of the small intestine, and here it meets with two other fluids, the **bile** and the **pancreatic juice**. The bile is a secretion formed by the liver, and is in reality a soap with an excess of soda. The pancreatic juice is secreted by the pancreas or sweetbread. This juice is colourless and transparent, and has the same power as the saliva, for converting any starch into sugar. It is therefore ready to complete any work left unfinished by the saliva in the first stage. The bile, however, has entirely new work to accomplish, viz., getting the oily matter of food blended with water.

187. You know that common soap carries with it a certain quantity of soda, and if used upon any greasy matter, it enables the grease to be mixed with the water used for the purpose of washing, and thus the oily matter is removed in the water. The bile is an animal soap, and as soon as it is brought in contact with the oily matter floating in the chyme, the soda it contains enters into combination, and **the oily matter of the original food is blended with the water**. After the chyme has been thus acted upon by the bile it is called **chyle**, and this association of names may help you to remember their proper sequence.

188. The mineral matter found in food is under the same conditions, and especially by the action of the gastric juice, prepared for entering into the circulation, and thus the blood also becomes charged with the inorganic matter which is required.

189. We have now got each portion of the food blended with water, viz., the starchy matters of the food, the nitrogenous substances, the oily portions, and the inorganic matter. These supplies of food are always accompanied by other matters, such as cellulose

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