

*of relation*, such as intellect, sensation, locomotion and voice and the *organic* or *vegetative functions*, as digestion, absorption, respiration, circulation, secretion, nutrition and calorification. These functions are what we call life. Life means movement, which again is but a transformation of forces contained in nature. These forces are concealed in a latent state in food, and their transformation into movement takes place within the body by means of the digestive functions. Feculents and sugars are consumed and provide animal heat, albuminoids and salts are fixed in our tissues and repair the wastes produced by use. Lastly fats, which have escaped oxidation are stored in the body and kept as a reserve for further and unforeseen wants of the organism.

Among substances destined to repair the incessant loss of the animal economy, some are directly absorbed and carried at once into the circulatory torrent; others deposited at the surface of the digestive organs, must undergo the influence of juices which are poured in and are modified so that they may be absorbed. This is the reason why food introduced into the mouth successively travels over the different parts of the digestive tract, being subjected by the way to various mechanical actions, but especially to the action of varied fluids.

Let us take, if you please, the alimentary bolus. Follow me, we shall accompany it in its pilgrimage into the depths of the digestive tube and see what will take place. Let us suppose this alimentary bolus composed of albuminoids, feculent and fatty substances. Once introduced into the buccal cavity, it finds itself in presence of a special liquid called saliva. The latter contains a ferment named ptyaline, which, while deprived of all action upon fats and albuminoids, possesses the property of converting feculent substances into dextrin, rendering them, therefore, assimilable. Hence, the necessity of thorough mastication of all starchy and sugared food, in order that these compounds shall be well impregnated with saliva. Hence again the dyspeptic disorders arising with people deprived of suitable teeth, as well as those who eat as if they were pursued, allowing no time for this important function to properly take place.

Arrived in the stomach, the alimentary bolus meets with another liquid, the *gastric juice*, which, like saliva, contains a ferment called *pepsin*. The latter's task is to digest albuminoid substances, which it