8 or 10 weeks if occasional drinks be taken. It would have been if some facts had been brought forward to support this statement— are not in possession of any which would verify it, although we endeavoured to collect all the cases of fasting on record, many of which undoubtedly apocryphal, as of Democritus, who subsisted for 40 days smelling honey and hot bread of persons existing for 2, 3, 4, and years without taking either food or drink. The longest genuine case that of a religious fanatic who determined to starve himself for 40 d but died exhausted on the 16th day. In determining this question se ral circumstances other than the ingestion of liquids should be consid ed, such as the state of the person previous to beginning the experime since life will be longest protracted in some comatose diseases, and in p sons reduced by illness: so also the condition in which they are plac for the want of food, will be best borne by those who are in a humid mosphere, or immersed in water, or accidentally immured.

We are glad to find that an extended account is given of the me morphosis which the various kinds of food undergo by contact with t different secretions of the alimentary mucous membrane, and its glan lar tributaries, from the practical application which can be made of such formation. Our space forbids as copious an excerption of this portion as would wish, but we shall briefly allude to the more important points they are stated. The chief object of the chemical phenomena of digest consists in the solution, as far as possible, of those solid compounds wh we receive in the food. Gaseous fluids or liquids enter the lymph blood by diffusion. Most drinks require no special digestion, while some, beer or coffee, are mixtures of solids and fluids, and then demand for th solid part solution prior to its absorption. The water of the secretions for the solution of soluble substances, as sugar, salt, &c., the salts or alk line phosphates which occur in most animal juices, partly aid in the s lution of the earthy phosphates; the acid gastric juice can drive off t carbonic acid of alkaline and earthy salts. The saliva is incapable of d solving fats or coagulated albumen, at a temperature over 98, it co verts paste into dextrin and grape sugar, and so makes it soluble; t presence of the gastric juice does not arrest this action, hence it proce in the stomach; raw starch is also acted upon, but with much great difficulty. The fluids of the mouth, of its mucous membrane and glan with saliva, induce a most energetic saccharine fermentation in boil starch. The short time during which the alimentary bolus remains the œsophagus allows of no very important chemical changes. The ch object of gastric digestion is the solution of coagulated albumen (the f are attacked by the admixed saliva) though much depends on the state its aggregation and other qualities; the fibrin of blood offers less resi ance than albumen of hard boiled eggs; the muscular fibres are more eas