

Treatise on Metallic and Mineral Medicines

By

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(Joseph Du Chesne)

**A Collection of the Most Precious and Rare Secrets,
Taken from the Manuscripts of the late Monsieur Joseph Du Chesne,
Sieur de la Violette, Officer and Physician in Ordinary to the King.**

Paris, 1641

**Produced by
R.A.M.S.
(Restoration of Alchemical Manuscripts Society)
1986**

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The Printer to the Reader

The esteem in which all of Europe held the late *Sieur de la Violette*, whose writings make him immortal as long as science has credit, has made me believe absolutely that what came from his hand could not be investigated with too much care or received with only general approbation. Heaven does not perform miracles every day, nor does Nature bring forth such great men of genius to whom she reveals her secrets. Here is the rarest she has, and I can say without boasting that nothing can be added to this compilation, as well as other writings issued from this same study, if you on your part evidence as much interest in this book as it has merits and as I have eagerness to serve you. Farewell.

Chapter I

The True Preparation of Philosophical Salt for a General Solvent and a Universal Medicine; A Good Way to Freeze the Spirits of Brandy and to make a Chemical Concordance with an Astronomical One, that is, to Join the Terrestrial Aquafortis with Aerated and Celestial Brandy (Water of Life), which is a Marvelous Solvent; Another Wonderful Solvent; another Solvent, Which is the Ardent Metallic Water

The True Preparation of Philosophical Salt for a General Solvent and a Universal Medicine

Take pebbles that are as white and lucid as those which are found along the Lake of Geneva and the banks of some rivers. Pulverize them coarsely, then put six parts of this with one part of Sun or Moon calx, made either with Mercury, with aqua fort, or some other way. Melt this mixture over a fire such as is used to make artificial stones, and your matter will be converted into a mass like a ball of glass, which pulverize subtly. After that, put your powder in a well-stoppered glass vessel and digest it in a sand fire for eight days. In this way the sulphur will burst forth sooner from the earth and will more easily sublimate. Accordingly, you will sublimate the sulphur of your materia in a well-luted and well-stoppered cucurbite, and when it is sublimated, you will separate it and keep it apart. [See Geber 's Liquor Silicis -- HW Nintzel, ed.]

The earth that does not sublimate and stays at the bottom of the vessel is solid and black, but it will become beautiful, white and almost of the consistency of salt by means of the reverberation, in the course of which you will see it take on all kinds of colors. After this earth has been reverberated at your discretion, pour on it some excellent vinegar, macerate them together for 24 hours, and the vinegar will attract the salt that is in the earth and which is the true root of metals.

Thereafter, separate the thus impregnated vinegar by inclination, and pour it again on the same earth which you had previously reverberated. Once more impregnate your vinegar and let it digest as before. Finally, separate this vinegar and again reverberate your earth, upon which you must pour some more vinegar. Proceed thus three or four times. Then separate all your vinegars, evaporate them at a slow fire till one-third has been consumed. Now put your glass in a cold cellar where small stones will be formed which can truly be called the Philosophical Salt of metals. This is a secret where the curiosity of so many philosophers has not been successful. They only found in it a shameful confusion after efforts that were as long as they were useless.

After the last separation of the vinegar, take your earth, which you will still find moist, and put it in a humid place for 4 or 5 weeks or more. From there, put it in a furnace over a fire of hot ashes or lukewarm sand, where lime is used [i.e., solar lime or lunar lime; substitute calx for lime -- HWN] and you will see emerge from this earth the spirits or the salt flowers in the form of transparent crystals. Separate them carefully from your earth, dissolve them in vinegar, and if you evaporate one-third of this vinegar, you will make crystals as before. The earth that remains after the separation of the crystals must once more be wetted with some vinegar, so as to make it moist. Put it in a humid place for 4 or 5 weeks, as before, and from there remove it to a slow ash or sand fire, and salt flowers or crystals will form for, the second time. You must repeat this several times, as in this way the mineral salt will grow and increase from day to day.

The same effect can be noticed in the vitriol mines or when working with saltpeter, for in this way salt is extracted every day from the earth of nitre and vitriol. This applies to the true salts extracted philosophically from Sol and Luna. Indeed, it is such an extraordinary secret that it would be criminal to despise it, since it is a medicine as sovereign as it is general, and which can unquestionably be considered the masterpiece of all chemical operations, because this salt dissolves immediately in every liquid no matter which, and by its admirable effect penetrates all kinds of bodies, dissolving, driving away, and healing anything malignant and injurious.

The author seems to have touched on this point in the Treatise he has written on the Medicine of the Ancient Philosophers, when he speaks as follows:

What door to the Garden of the Hesperides have I opened by speaking so clearly about saltpeter? What free access have I given to the stupid and ignorant which should only be given to scholars and lovers of the Muses? Therefore, in order to prevent your being deceived by taking my words literally, know that saltpeter or the fusible salt of the philosophers, which has at all braes given alchemy its name, is not common saltpeter. Nevertheless, its composition and its wonderful nature are like the patron or the Lesbian rule of our Work: After this, I can say that I have spoken more clearly and more openly than any of those who came before me.

A Good Way to Freeze the Spirits of Brandy and to make a Chemical Concordance with an Astronomical One, that is, to Join the Terrestrial Aquafortis with Aereated and Celestial Brandy (Water of Life), which is a Marvelous Solvent ~

Take some vitriol of Cyprus or of Hungary, the latter being second in quality, 2 lbs; sublimated Mercury and common cinnabar or antimony, 1 lb each. Distill them in the usual manner. Take 1 lb of this aquafortis and distill it again with fresh cinnabar or sublimated Mercury. Do this three times, removing the feces each time, until the water is quite clear. Put it aside and take care that it does not get spoiled from exposure to the air. This done, take 8 oz of the feces of the first aquafortis which contains the vitriol, put on it 1-1/2 lb marc weight of a very excellent brandy rectified 7 times. This is to be pulverized, well mixed, and put to digest in moisture in a well-closed vessel and distilled with a small fire to begin with. Then, at the end, use a strong fire till all the spirits have come out. Note that the feces of the aquafortis will be red as corals and will be reduced to vapors, even if you were using cinnabar of antimony.

Take a large retort or a glass cucurbite immersed in cold water and attached with a cork or arranged in such a way that it can neither lean to one side nor to the other and stays immersed in the said water. After that, take two small even bottles and put into each of them 1 oz of these waters, filling them completely. Then put one after another in a vessel and you will see a great bubbling up. Let it settle and add to it two other phials of the same size as the others, full of the same water. Again the same bubbling will arise. Continue thus to gradually join all your waters to the last drop. Thereafter let it settle, and digest everything in the cold state for 24 hours: then distill your waters in the B. M.. They will leave you a salt at the bottom like ice or gum. Note that you must not distill to dryness, and the said salt must stay liquid. Now cohobate what you have distilled (by repeated distillations) till your distilled water has no more power and has left all its spirits conjoined with the salt, and then the work of your plant salt will be accomplished. Note that you must carefully store this weak water to use it for the dissolution of bodies.

As to the salt, dry it very gently in a small retort, closed and stoppered in such a way that

the spirits cannot exhale, and when your matter is dry, you must seal the retort hermetically to better preserve your salt.

Another Wonderful Solvent

Take cinnabar of antimony, composed of even parts of crude antimony and sublimated Mercury driven through the degrees of the fire. With the first degree, a gum will appear, and with the second -- which will be a double fire above and below -- the materia will sublime as much on the sides as on the neck of the retort. Thus you will produce a beautiful cinnabar, of which take 1 part; also 1 part each of vitriol and saltpeter. Put everything together in a retort with a long neck, on an ash-fire, till all the moisture is exhaled.

Now stopper your retort well with cotton, continue the fire of your sublimation by degrees for 24 hours, and the matter will all sublime into a mass white as snow, having the form of hair. Take this mass and imbibe it with oil of tartar on a marble or glass mortar till it turns into a soft paste.

Put it in a big tall alembic to which its head is attached, lute it, and keep it in B. M. for 6 or 7 days, during which time your materia will turn into liquid Mercury. It is the Mercury of the sulphur of antimony and can pass through leather.

Now add to this Philosophical Mercury an equal quantity of common Mercury that has not been prepared in any way. These two Mercuries, mixed together and put in a proper vessel, are put in the warm Horse's Belly for 6 days. Then distill them on an ash-fire, and the quicksilver will distill in the form of water which is the true mercurial water. Keep it separate.

Thereafter take what is left at the bottom of the vessel in the form of a crystalline salt. Dissolve it in B. M. with some good brandy. What is left is a permanent and clear oil of quicksilver. Thus you will have two different liquids of mercurial oils, made in two different ways, which are the keys for opening the metals of the Sun and the Moon, of which you will be able to prepare the great medicines for the health and conservation of human bodies.

Another Solvent, Which is the Ardent Metallic Water

Make an amalgam of 2 oz of tin with as much common Mercury, in the usual manner. Crush this amalgam with an equal part of sublimated Mercury, put everything into a glass in a damp place, and one part will turn into water in a few days.

Amalgamate 6 oz of Saturn with 6 oz of common Mercury, to which add as much sublimated Mercury as the weight of the two together, that is, 12 oz; pulverize it and put it together with your tin paste. In a short time, the whole will dissolve into a soft paste covered by a cloudy water and mixed with some revived Mercury. Press this partly sticky and watery solution through a cloth, by which you will separate the liquid Mercury. The rest of the cloudy water is to be put into an alembic to be distilled in sand. By giving fire by degrees, you will see some transparent water come out, which keep separate. Then, by increasing the fire, the rest of the materia will be abundantly sublimated at the head, like needles or tufts of wool, of a sweet taste, and this sublimate is the true Salt of Saturn.

This downy and soft materia must be mixed with its water, and by means of repeated

digestions and distillations an ardent metallic brandy (water of life) can be extracted from it, or this downy materia can be melted in a good spirit of wine (alcohol). Then you can put Salt of gold or silver in one or the other of these two waters, as much as your water can dissolve. Digest everything and observe the method by which the menstruum are made, that is, the rectifications and cohobations, to turn it into a metallic ardent water which will be a true natural solvent, for Nature loves Nature and rejoices in Nature, as the philosophers say. With these small crystals and the downy substance a great medicine can be made of it. If you imbibe this substance with oil of tartar and follow the way we have described above concerning the Mercury of antimony, you can even true your downy substance into liquid Mercury, which is still an admirable secret.

In fact, I am giving you here many fine keys and open to you a field that is very favorable for further philosophizing.

Another Universal Solvent, Called Philosophical Vinegar

Take 3 quarts of good vinegar, the strongest you can find. After distilling it twice, put it on 3 lbs of well-calcined salt of tartar, then distill it strongly to make it surrender all its spirits. By this you will draw out one-third of your materia which will be capable of dissolving pearls. Into the remaining two-thirds put another 2 lbs of salt of tartar and distill as above.

As soon as you have distilled one-third, put it aside to be used later to dissolve coral and calcined antimony. Add yet another pound of fresh salt of tartar to the leftovers in the vessel, and distill again. Continue your distillation in this way to the end, till all your spirits have been drawn out. Then you will have a marvelous solvent for all kinds of calcined metals and for extracting their salts, oils, and even the Mercuries. Therefore, if you have dissolved some metal in this water and have extracted its salt, remember to distill two parts of it after the required digestions and to put the rest in a cold spot so that small pieces of ice may form, which you must separate by inclination. After that, wash them several times either with common water or with brandy, and finally try to resolve them by moisture, so as to transform them into oils.

Philosophical Water for Dissolving the Two Luminaries

Take nitre and sal ammoniac, 1 lb of each: small river pebbles, pulverized, half a pound. Mix everything well and throw them into a glazed earthenware vessel, pierced on the sides, only, 1 oz at a time. This done, immediately stopper the hole with a damp cloth. First the spirits will rise and the water will distill. After this, open the hole and throw in yet another ounce of your powder. Continue with this till you have a reasonable quantity of water which you must carefully preserve as, by an occult property, this water dissolves the two luminaries and turns one into a bright red and the other into a sapphire color. If you wish to get a fine oil from your dissolved salt, even redder than blood, you will do so successfully if you separate the water from it by a gentle distillation. Do this till you obtain an oily substance. Repeat this three times, always putting your water back into the vessel. It will finally come out without any taste, leaving, as I have said, the finest golden oil in the world at the bottom of the vessel. If you pour on it fresh water for the fourth time, you will see the solar oil rise very red and very beautiful through the alembic. To separate the phlegm of this last solvent from the oily substance, put everything in a cold cellar, and there small pieces of red ice-like crystals will form. Continue as long as that congealing takes place, for in this way you will more easily preserve the phlegm. Besides, as these crystals melt in common water, you can still pass them through the alembic and extract from them the tincture with the spirit of salt, which will leave the body of your gold at the

bottom of your vessel as white as the Moon, and will give you an excellent tincture for all hopeless illnesses.

A Solvent for all Kinds of Precious Stones

Take some of the freshest quicklime, pulverize it coarsely in a glass vessel and pour upon it some excellent spirit of wine which must be without phlegm, lest the cal be spoiled. Let it float over it by three or four fingers' breadth, then let it digest in the cold till the lime has absorbed the spirit of wine and is completely fermented by it. After that, cover the vessel with a head to separate in B. M. the spirit of wine, which will be sweet and almost insipid, because the cal will have retained the sal ammoniac of the spirit of wine. This done, put some more good spirit of wine on the marc at the bottom of the vessel and digest and distill as before, continuing doing this till the lime refuses to absorb more spirit of wine. It will be the sign that it has taken as much of it as it needs. You must distill the last imbibition at a slow fire, however, and this time the spirit of wine will come out as sharp and biting as it was formerly. As to the rest of the materia, put it together with its weight in bole or tripod, and distill everything with a strong fire, like that used to prepare the spirit of salt. In this way you will extract a very powerful solvent, capable of dissolving crystals, pearls, and all kinds of precious stones.

Extraction of Oils and Tinctures from Minerals

Take some good pumice stone, the whitest that can be found, powder it subtly, then saturate it with some good distilled vinegar, and desiccate it. You must repeat this four times, and the last time you must reverberate it with a flame fire that must not be strong, to prevent it from melting. Now cement with this powder some laminae that are well rid of any metal whatever, even of the Sun, and this by stratification in a reverberation degree of the fire or of any other kind, for 24 hours, and your powder will assume the color of the metal. Repeat this cementing till it has eaten away your metallic laminae. Now take your colored powders and put them five times in distilled vinegar vitalized with saltpeter, taking 4 oz of the said salt to 1 lb of this vinegar. Leave this vinegar and this salt to putrefy together in a retort, through which distill thereafter your vinegar with a strong fire, cohobating it till it has removed almost all the feces. When the vinegar has been thus prepared, put your colored pumice stone into it. It will lose all its tincture. Leave everything in the Horse's Belly for two weeks, and during this time your vinegar will draw out the color of your pumice stone: Then empty it and add other vinegar. Continue doing this till the extraction of the color is completed. After that, let your menstruum exhale in the bath, and it will leave the tincture of your metal at the bottom. If you wish to exalt it further, you will have to pour on your tincture some excellent brandy which you must putrefy so as to attract the soul of the metallic and mineral tinctures that you wish to obtain.

Chapter II

Gold

The Way to Make Potable Gold, According to the Method of Raymond Lully ~ Use of the Preceding Philosophical Sulphur ~ Another Use of the Same Philosophical Sulphur ~ Another Use of the Same ~ Second Method of Making Potable Gold ~ Third Method ~ Fourth Method ~ Fifth Method ~ Sixth Method ~ Seventh Method ~ Eighth Method ~ Ninth method ~ Tenth Method. ~ The Gold Oil of Rudelius, Physician of Scueberg in Misnia ~ Another Oil of Gold, According to the Special Method of the Sieur de la Violette ~ Essence and Tincture of Gold Sudorific Gold ~ Purgative Gold ~ Gold of Life Vegetable Gold ~ Calcined Philosophical Gold.

The Way to Make Potable Gold, According to the Method of Raymond Lully

The great secret of the books of Raymond Lully, Asilius, and Zacharius in regard to the quintessence is the extraction of an excellent distilled spirit of wine by means of the great vessel sealed with cork and paper, at a slow fire.

When the spirit of wine has come out, the rest has to be distilled in large alembics till the feces begin to thicken. Put them aside in a clean vessel and continue your distillations till you have a large amount of spirit of wine, phlegm, and feces. Then take the feces which you have separated and put them into an alembic in a steam-bath to remove the rest of their moisture, so that they stay at the bottom of your receptacle like melted pitch. Put the feces that have been thus thickened back into another alembic, together with their phlegm which floats above them by four fingers' breadth. Keep them for four hours on a small fire to extract their tincture, consisting of combustible sulphur and the impurities of the wine. When your phlegm is colored, empty it gently by inclination, then put fresh phlegm on it and continue doing this till it is no longer colored and your earth is left white and crystalline at the bottom. If you should run out of phlegm, you can get some more by separating the colored substance from the tincture. When you do this, there will remain at the bottom some sulphur, or better, some blood red oil which you must carefully preserve. Note that this preparation of the feces could be made just as well with simple ablutions continued till their earth stays at the bottom in the form of lapilli, as it happens when you purify common tartar to make crystals thereof.

The thus prepared feces are put into small long-necked cucurbits, together with their heads and receivers, which you must hermetically seal after pouring redistilled brandy on them. Boil and distill them for 6 hours on a small ash-fire, then put the distillate back into the vessel and leave it there for an hour. After this, empty all this liquid by inclination as carefully as you can, so as not to disturb anything. Now pour some more of your redistilled brandy over the feces, continuing doing this till they become black and no longer smoke on silver foil. To benefit from the waters that you have obtained from your earth by inclination, you must put them into carefully closed containers in a cold place, lest they evaporate, because this water is the animated Philosophical Water.

Now gather up all your earths and put them in a sealed long-necked retort. Bury it in sand and calcine it at a medium-sublimation fire, keeping it in the athanor for 6 whole days, after which your earths will be white and very well calcined. Thereafter take your earth and divide it between two cucurbites of the proper size, upon which pour one-fourth of their weight of the animated water of which we have just spoken. After attaching the heads and

receptacles, keep them first for one day in a lukewarm B. M., then put them for two days on an ash-fire, to distill them slowly. The water that will distill will be tasteless and powerless, having left its spirit and all its virtue to its calcined earth. Other animated water must now be put on it, always keeping the same proportion of which I spoke above, continuing the digestion at the B. M. and the distillation with ashes till each earth has absorbed its animated water and has become volatile. You will easily recognize it by the test of the red-hot silver foil, when you will see your earths go up in smoke. If they are not totally evaporated, the preceding operation must be repeated and continued till the substance is completely exhaled. In the opinion of the great Lully, the earth thus prepared is the true Sulphur and the true Philosophical Mercury.

When you see on the foil that your earth has become completely volatile, put it into two small sealed alembics, together with their receptacles, and give them a slow sublimation fire for one day, increasing it by degrees till the 4th day, when the white fumes no longer appear in the vessel and your materia strongly adheres to the sides like foliated earth. It will be beautiful, clear, and transparent like pearls and talcum. Pulverize it in a small marble mortar and pour on it some distilled sulphurous spirit, not all at once but in gradual sprinklings. Finally, put it in a strong athanor for 3 or 4 days, during which time it will receive its perfect decoction and will turn into a pearly substance which will be the radical balsam of metals and each time an extract of a plant nature.

Use of the Preceding Philosophical Sulphur

Take 2 or 3 oz of the earth of which we have just spoken and which is called Philosophical Sulphur, add to it 6 oz of excellent spirit of wine extracted as above, and put it in a long-necked retort. Heat it for 34 hours in the B. M., and when everything has turned into an azure-blue water, pour into it 5 oz of prepared Sun which will suddenly dissolve, reddening at the same time the water of its solvent. After that, distill this solution 6 times in the Bath, each time pouring the water back on the feces. Finally, distill with an ash-fire, and your gold will rise with the water, leaving the Philosophical Sulphur at the bottom of the receptacle. Keep it for other dissolutions. Repeat once more the distillation in the B. M., and the tincture of the Sun will stay at the bottom of the alembic, together with the extracting agent, as a liquid and a precious oil which some alchemists dissolve again with the animated menstruum of the Philosophical Sulphur and pass through the beak-head of the vessel, so as to turn it into true potable gold and a universal medicine.

Another Use of the Same Philosophical Sulphur

Dissolve in B. M. 4 oz of our Sulphur in 2 lb of the brandy of which we have spoken, then distill it on ashes. Pour 6 oz of this distilled water on 1 oz of calcined Sun, always adding fresh water, so as to obtain a complete dissolution. When it is done, circulate it in a Pelican in the Bath, or else in the Horse's Belly, for 40 days, and you will have a most precious liquid. If you separate the humor from it on a small ash-fire, your Sol will remain at the bottom of your vessel, like the other.

Another Use of the Same

Reduce the Sun in Mercury and calcine it with common aqua fortis, extracting the water and pouring it back three times on the feces. To finish this work properly, put the feces in a crucible on live coal till they turn all red and do not smoke any longer. Then your gold is perfectly calcined or precipitated, and all you have to do is wash it several times with dew water. When this gold lime has been thus prepared, put it in a vessel and pour over it 4

times as much good brandy. Cohobate 7 times in B. M., the last time with a small ash-fire, after which your Sun, at the bottom, will be turned into as fine a liquid as the others, and even more subtle.

Method of Making Potable Gold

Choose the best tartar of Montpellier and calcine it to perfect whiteness, but take care that it does not melt. Take 1 lb of the tartar thus prepared and pour on it 2 oz of very fine brandy. Then distill everything in an alembic in a steam-bath; and as the tartar retains in itself the spirits and the sal ammoniac of the brandy, your distillate will be tasteless. After this first distillation, you must pour on it 2 or 3 oz more of the same water and redistill as before, and you must continue distilling in this way little by little till your brandy comes out with the same strength as you had put it in, because that is a sure sign that your tartar has absorbed as much fire and spirits of the brandy as it needs. Being full of these volatile spirits, it can be elevated by sublimation into a substance which the philosophers call terra foliata (foliated earth). This done, take 4 oz of the thus alcoholized tartar and half a pound of a strong brandy, put them together and circulate them in a proper vessel. Then your brandy will take on the color of the sky and will be capable of dissolving gold in a perfect dissolution. In this way you will have a plant solvent that is less harmful than all the others.

Before putting Sol in this solvent, it must be amalgamated with Mercury. This amalgam must be put into aquafortis where your Sun will calcine into an impalpable powder. Wash it well in order to remove the salt and the spirits which the aqua fort may have left with it. Now mix this calx with twice as much sublimated flowers of sulphur and put everything into two earthenware bowls. Your Sulphur will evaporate and leave a spongy and very subtle gold at the bottom. Put it into your heavenly water and set it in B. M., and you will surely see the dissolution of your gold in twice 24 hours. It will be the true potable Sol, not only suitable for ordinary diseases but even for all kinds of lepra.

Second Method of Making Potable Gold

First, prepare salt in the usual way. Take good tripoli and good brick, 2 or 3 lbs each, according to the size of your retort which must be made of good clay that can stand the fire without bursting. Put your materia into this vessel, subtly pulverized and mixed together. Know that your retort must have a hole at the back, opposite its neck and beak, so that a blowpipe can be put there and enter by two fingers' breadth to blow out the fumes of the salt in the body of the receptacle. You must also lute your retort with its receptacle which must be quite big and ample, such as is used to make oil of vitriol. Besides, you must put on a small stove a container filled with water, such as a small retort, which is called a small fire, increasing it every two hours, without using the blower while the spirits of the salt are rising of themselves. Use it only when they no longer pass and when the new spirit rises up in smoke. That spirit must be pushed to the bottom of the receptacle by the action of the blower, which you must continue to the end of the smoke. When all the spirit has passed (it can be recognized by the drops that begin to distill), it has to be rectified and separated from the water of the blower that has passed with it. When that is done, you will have a very white spirit, very fine, which you must keep apart in good phials of Lorraine, because it calcines the other glasses.

After having thus extracted your spirit of Salt, take gold leaves and amalgamate them with twice as much common Mercury, previously purified with salt and vinegar. When your amalgam is thus made, put it in a small sublimating vessel to evaporate there half of the Mercury. Thereafter crush your amalgam in a glass or marble mortar, adding one quarter

of the flowers of Sulphur. Put everything in a crucible luted with another. Mercury and the Sulphur will disappear, and your Sun will remain calcined. There are some who repeat this operation three times, but once is enough.

Put this solar call in a long-necked retort of Lorraine glass, putting over it four fingers' breadth of your spirit of Salt, and set it to digest on hot ashes for one day. During this time your spirit will extract the tincture of Sol, and when it is well tinged with it, pour it into a retort by inclination. Again, put some of your spirit over the salt and leave it to digest as before till it is well colored. Then pour it together with the other into the same retort, and continue this procedure to the entire dissolution of your Sol and till you do not see anything at the bottom of the retort but white feces.

Take your retort in which your colored spirits are gathered and put it on a small fire to distill slowly with three or four cohobations, till the spirits come out weak and without strength. Then take some fresh spirit and put it on the materia left in the retort. Distill several times as before until your Sol rises and goes over into the receptacle, together with spirit. Now decrease your fire and make it so small that your Sol cannot rise with the spirit but stays alone at the bottom of the retort as a red salt or a thick congealed oil. Finally it must be covered with so strong a brandy that it burns everything in the test. Dissolve your gold salt with that by putting then together to digest. If the dissolution is not complete the first time, repeat the process by keeping to that used for the operation with the spirit of Salt.

When your last dissolution is done, distill your yellow brandy through the retort, and your tincture of Sol will rise, or at least after several repetitions. Note that if all of Sol did not rise after several distillations, it would be a sign that the spirit of Salt did not have the strength to decompose as required, and you would therefore have to put some fresh spirit of Salt on the body of the gold, and again do as before.

When Sol has completely risen, separate the brandy from it, and pass the same water three or four times over its body. Finally, it will remain by itself at the bottom of the vessel as a yellow oil, which has nevertheless the power to tinge red.

Note that this gold solution mixes with common water without its body being revived, that is, without reverting to its metallic body.

To rid your solar oil of any tartness that the spirit of Salt may have given it, you must pour some oil of tartar on it, which will so well correct the strange taste of the Salt that your potable gold will be of such a sweet and pleasant taste as liquorice.

Third Method of Making Potable Gold

Calcine gold three times with Mercury and Sulphur, in the manner about which we have already spoken. Take some excellent spirit of Salt, well prepared and rectified, to extract the tincture from your gold calx, because it is characteristic of the spirit of Salt that it extracts the Sulphur or the red tincture from this noble metal and leaves its white body at the bottom of the vessel. The infusion of this spirit into your materia must be repeated as often as necessary to complete the extraction of all of the tincture. Now bring all your liquids together in an alembic pot, to separate the spirit of Salt from them by distilling them to dryness. After this operation you will find at the bottom of your receptacle a very light and very red powder, almost like Mars saffron. Put it in a retort, pour some good spirit of vitriol over it, or rather some good oil distilled from all of the substance of the same mineral -- or at least from some that has been slightly calcined, redistilled, and digested to the

point where it does not contain any feces, so that the oil is quite pure, quite tart, quite white, and quite clear. This oil will be such as is required to extract all the color from the crocus of our Sun, by the conjunction of which it loses all its tartness and becomes perfectly mild. Keep this oil of solar vitriol and depend on it as an extraordinary remedy, of which the dose of 4 or 5 drops in white wine or bouillon does wonders for the cure of the strangest diseases.

Fourth Method of Making Potable Gold

Take hold and dissolve it in the Philosophical Water that dissolves the two luminaries and which is composed of nitre and sal ammoniac, as we said above. After thus dissolving your Sun, distill the solution to the consistency of syrup. Then pour some more Water on and distill again as above, doing this three times. You will see that the waters come out of the alembic insipid, as they leave there their spirits with the body of the Sun.

But in order to pass the Sun through the retort or the alembic, some fresh solvent must again be poured on it which, animated by the solar spirit, will do admirable thing for the health, and especially for the cure of lepra.

Having thus calcined your gold, throw it into common water together with its solvent, and when everything is mixed, put some Mercury into it. It will cause an Eclipse of the Sun, if you digest it cold for some time, as it will attract all of the solar body. Separate the water from it by inclination and wash the amalgam of these two bodies several times to soften their tartness and to separate all the spirits from the Philosophical Water.

Having done this, press the Mercury through a leather in which your solar calx will stay behind as an amalgam. Put it in the fire, that is, in a flat basin, to let the Mercury evaporate, and you will be left with a calx of crocus or solar cinnabar, impalpable and quite red. From it the tincture of the Sun can be extracted with some spirit of Salt, and of the spirit of Salt saturated with this tincture give three or four drops, which will do wonders for all inveterate diseases.

Fifth Method of Making Potable Gold

Distill some good spirit of vitriol and pour it over Jupiter on a strong ash-fire, and you will extract from it the most beautiful yellow water in the world. Leave it for a whole night in an open bottle. The following day, pour it on gold leaves put at the bottom of a glass alembic, and add to it an equal amount of very fine brandy which must be at least half dephlegmatized. Now distill your brandy in B. M., then your solvent on ashes, in the same alembic. If your Sol has not yet turned into oil at the bottom of your receptacle, pour some more of your solvent and your brandy on it. Repeat this till your gold turns into oil with the first force of the solvents. On this oil put the solvent alone, without the brandy. It will take on the color of the oil which has many uses, as it is given for all diseases of the lungs, the stomach, and the heart, in short, for all kinds of illnesses and infirmities. One spoonful or half a spoonful is given, according to the strength of the sick person. It is also excellent for the prolongation of life and the prevention of all kinds of diseases if one of these doses is taken during three days in bouillon or otherwise. This liquid is so harmless that it can even be given to three-day old babies. If you wish to give it in the form of oil, take only one drop in bouillon or distilled melissa.

Sixth Method of Making Potable Gold

Take honeycomb of the month of May, of a good consistency, put it in a well-stoppered retort and let it stand for 20 days. Then put it in B.M. and keep it there for 5 days, after which it will be pure and flowing. When in this state, press it through a cloth and distill the strained matter three times in a small alembic on a slow fire. In addition, powder some gold leaves on a marble slab. Take 1 oz of it, upon which pour 4 oz. of your honey water in a retort. Keep it well closed in B. M. for 10 days, and during this time a wonderful oil will form out of the quintessence of the honey and the gold. To do this perfectly, put it in an alembic to convert your Sun into calx by distillation on an ash-fire. Now wash it carefully several times with pure well water and three times with dew water. In short, put some good brandy on this purified calx and distill everything in B. M. in the same alembic up to 7 times. In this way your metal will be radically turned into oil which will in fact be turbid, but you can also purify it first by fire and then by dew water, to make it suitable for the preservation of health and the cure of many diseases.

Seventh Method of Making Potable Gold

Calcine pumice stone in the most recent dew water you can find, and make a cement of the powder of this stone with the gold call, prepared with aquafortis, or salt, or Mercury, as you learnt before. Put your cement for 24 hours in a reverberation fire, and in this fire your Stone will extract a purple color from the Sun, which is no other than the true tincture of gold. Powder this colored stone and then pass it through a very fine strainer. To separate the substance of the gold from that of the pumice stone, pour some fine brandy over all this powder which you have rectified by distilling it over excellent honey of Narbonne. Your water will attract all the tincture, provided you give it several infusions of brandy till it no longer gets colored. When the tincture has been thus extracted from these waters, separate it by a gentle distillation to the consistency of oil. You will be left with a potable tincture whose color will be enhanced as it ages. Give one drop of it on a tablet of sugar, or in wine or bouillon, and you will restore the life of invalids.

Eighth Method of Making Potable Gold

Get some good Roman vitriol, or rather vitriol of Cyprus or Hungary, and put it in a glazed earthenware pot on an ash-fire to let the moisture of the vitriol evaporate. To finish calcining it well, put it in a well covered and well-luted earthenware pot on a live coal fire, where it has to stay for less than 4 hours to allow it to calcine perfectly. If it does not look calcined enough, cover the pot once more and put it back on the fire till it becomes as red as blood. After this preparation, without which this work cannot be accomplished, put the vitriolic cal, called colcothar (the caput mortuum!) into a well-luted retort on a reverberation fire. You will extract three substances, the last of which will be the oil, of which there will only be very little. Into this oil of vitriol, which you will pour into a small alembic pot, throw the gold leaves folded into rolls and keep them on the fire for one hour or more, to be dissolved and made potable. And while these leaves are thus being dissolved, pour on them some oil of cloves and camphor, that is, to 2 oz of oil of vitriol, for instance, take 1 oz of oil of cloves and 1 oz of prepared oil of camphor, as we will tell you below. You will notice that as soon as you have mixed your oils of cloves and camphor with the vitriolic solution of your gold, the receptacle will get heated and a great boiling will arise due to the antipathy of the spirits of these three oils. While this is taking place, put your substances in the cold, and when they have somewhat recovered, you can put them *on the fire to distill and to successively separate these three liquids, the last of which to be distilled being the oil of gold and the true potable gold.

Regarding the usable oil of camphor of which we have spoken, it is made as follows: Take

camphor, pulverize it and dissolve it on a slow fire in oil of sweet almonds. When it is completely dissolved, pour on this oil a reasonable amount of good spirit of wine, and then pass everything through the beak of an alembic, on a sand-fire. Your oil of camphor will come out beautiful, clear, and quite suitable for the above-mentioned operation.

Ninth Method of Making Potable Gold

Take good pulverized candied sugar, melt it on fire, then imbibe glowing bricks with it. When they are well imbibed, put them in a retort or in an alembic to be distilled on a slow fire. Then you will obtain a very efficacious oil. Not only can its acridity dissolve several solid bodies, but even the body of the Sun, if prepared with Mercury, aqua fortis, and Sulphur sublimated according to the Art, can easily be dissolved when it is put to digest for some time in B. M. or in the Horse's Belly. Finally, it can turn into oil if the liquid of the sugar is gently distilled in the same bath, which leaves behind it the oil of the Sun or the potable gold, the easiest and most harmless potable gold that our Art has yet prepared.

Tenth Method of Making Potable Gold

Take 1 oz of gold and 16 oz of Regulus of antimony. Melt the Regulus, and during the fusion, throw the Sun on it". Leave them together on the fire for a quarter of an hour, without blowing. At the end of this time, remove your materia, powder it, and put it into two crucibles, well sealed, lest your materia, powder it, and put it into two crucibles, well sealed, lest something might escape. Leave it for a whole day on the fire of a wind furnace, and such a fire will cause your materia to become almost black. Let it cool and crush it thereafter. Then put it on the furnace and increase the fire. If the materia can be easily crushed, it is a sign that the cement must be renewed and the 4th degree of fire be given. In this way you will obtain a fine white powder, upon which you must pour distilled vinegar. It will extract as brown color from this powder by means of the digestion, and if you distill it in the Bath, there will be left at the bottom of your vessel a red oil, almost of the color of rubes.

Another Gold Oil, According to the Special Method of the Sieur de la Violette

Take 2 lbs of melted salt, 1-1/2 lbs of fine saltpeter, remelt everything in a big crucible, and throw on it 1 lb of pulverized Tripoli, stirring the materia well. Then put it in a marble mortar and pulverize it completely. Note that if you can obtain some of those white pebbles from the Lake of Geneva of which we have already spoken, or some of those transparent flints, calcined and pulverized as is usually done by throwing them into the water, those things, I say, would be much better than the tripoli. Proceed with this mixture as above, extract the spirits through an earthenware retort, as is done with those of the aqua fortis. This water, which may be called the spirit, or rather the quintessence of common salt and niter, must be rectified in B. M. with 10 or 12 cohobations, putting the distillation over the marc, so as to extract from it that part of the water that does not have any characteristics at all of the nature of the Fire and which is called the watery phlegm. This operation must be continued till, for example, there is only half a pound or a little more left of 2 lbs of liquid. Then your spirit is marvelously purified, heavy, and separated from all its superfluous wateriness.

This done, take one part of the Regulus of antimony prepared with Mars, and 2 parts of sublimated Mercury. Pulverize them and put them together in a retort to extract from them a gummy liquid. Dissolve it in moisture, and redistill it again through the retort to extract from it a clear and heavy oil like Mercury. This will be happily accomplished, provided you separate the first moisture during distillation.

This clear and dephlegmatized oil is put into a suitably large retort, and the spirit of Salt, which you had previously preserved, is also put into the receptacle. Then join the retort to its receptacle; lute them together to prevent anything from escaping. Give a sand-fire by degrees, and you will extract a mercurial liquid from the retort. Falling upon the salt, it will cause a big and strange effervescence, of which you must not be surprised. This distillation finished, remove the receptacle all at once and pour cold water into it to somewhat restrain the great ardor of the spirits. Afterwards, put them into a small alembic together with its head and its receptacle. Placed on cold sand, the materia will distill during three days without fire, after which you can give fire to finish the distillation of the liquid. However, you will observe that a white powder will rise which you must put aside for other uses. As to the mercurial liquid, pour it into strong well-stoppered bottles, carefully buried in wet sand, lest it evaporate because of the great fire by which it is animated.

In addition, prepare a philosophical water of sal ammoniac and saltpeter, as I showed you above. Into 4 oz of this water pour at most 15 drops of your mercurial water, which will be an extractor for drawing out the tincture from one oz of gold, amalgamated with two parts of Regulus. When it has extracted all the tincture, separate it gently by inclination, and add again so much that only a white body remains. Do this in B. M. with very low heat.

Collect all these colored waters and distill in the Bath what is most clear. Put the rest in a retort, drive it, and finally give it strong fire, so as to sublimate the Sun at the neck of the retort. It will be brilliant and radiant like a ruby and will turn into an oil whose uses are admirable.

If you put equal parts of the said mercurial water and oil of vitriol or of sulphur together and extract the liquid through a retort, you will have an oil that coagulates in the cold and dissolves in a warm hand or in any other low heat, and is suitable for dissolving the Sun and the Moon.

Essence and Tincture of Gold

Make an aqua regia with common salt, or sal ammoniac, or spirit of Salt. Add to 12 oz of this water 4 oz of specially prepared sublimate, which has been sublimated 7 times in the same way it was sublimated the first time, that is, it must be mixed with fresh vitriol in the usual proportion, so that it is completely saturated with it. Having thus mixed these things, let them digest together for 4 or 5 days, then distill and drive the spirits till the Mercury sublimates. If you carry this operation out like a good artist, you will have very excellent mercurial water which dissolves and opens Sol wonderfully well, for if you put gold into it—keeping everything in putrefaction three times, each time separating the phlegm from the solvent your materia will be well opened. To open it to the utmost degree, however, some fresh mercurial water must be poured over your materia, and it is even necessary to cohobate it up to three times. After this, give a good sublimations fire, and you will see your Sun rise over your alembic, red as blood, exalted, volatile, and well suited to turn into, tincture with the help of the alcoholized animated vegetable spirit, and capable of achieving the last exaltation of gold. You could also make it with the same aqua regia if instead of the sublimated Mercury you took the same amount of gum and mercurial oil that is extracted when making the Mercury of life, and proceeded as above till your Sol became volatile, for it is in this that the whole secret of this operation consists. After extracting your solar tincture in this way, you will get ahead even more by adding to 3 parts of this volatile gold 1 part of Mercury of the same luminary, extracted with revivifying salts. Thus you will obtain a perfect medicine, the effects of which are sovereign and infallible for all diseases.

Sudorific Gold

Make an aqua regia in the usual way, and in this water dissolve gold leaves or filings, or gold in small laminae. Then pour upon it, drop by drop, your solution of a fine oil of tartar made by the dissolution of its salt. All at once, a great effervescence will arise from the union of these two liquids. This shows that your oil of tartar must not be poured on in one go, but only drop by drop, as we have said, making small effervescences each time. Continue in this way till the materia no longer bubbles up. Put the container with your materia in a cold place for a while, and your calcined Sun will precipitate to the bottom of the vessel. When you see it in this state, pour all the water off, gently, by inclination, and wash the residues with warm water. After that, dry them in the heat of the sun or in a drying closet, in such a way that the materia cannot burst into flames, because, being dry, it is as easily ignited as gun powder, not only by the least bit of heat but even simply by motion. This happens at the bottom, contrary to gun powder which pushes upward. This is so much so that if you were to put some of this powder on a very thick piece of wood and set fire to it, it would make such an effort that it would pierce the wood completely. Therefore, one could do wonders with it, if it were easy to carry it without it going up in flames, which it does by simply being disturbed.

Such is the solar materia with which the philosophers teach us to compose the great Sudorific which they call Burning Gold and which they use with precaution and in the following manner. Take 4 or 5 grains of your gold calx, put it in a silver spoon filled with a fine spirit of wine. Thereafter, set fire to it while keeping the spoon quite straight. By covering it with a bell-shaped glass, sublimate your Sun. During this sublimation you will observe a small noise and a small dark cloud around the glass. Seeing this, put some more brandy on the same powder and continue as before repeating the same operation for a whole day, so as to obtain a reasonable quantity of your sublimated Sun, which will be of a very subtle consistency and sky blue. Scrape it with feathers and preserve it Carefully. If you give 2 or 3 grains of it on sugar or jam or in a suitable liquid, you will purge the sick in an extraordinary way by a thick and unctuous perspiration, which will drive away all kinds of putrid fevers and pestilences, and even the most stubborn and lamentable diseases.

I have several times observed that this gold powder, before being sublimated and without any preparation other than that of being simply precipitated with oil of tartar, is an incredible remedy for pestilences, if one gives a few grains 24 hours after being attacked. It drives away the poison through the perspiration, and is quite successful, provided one rests in bed and does not move.

Besides, if you consider the great effects of this solar calx and the ease with which it catches fire, you will perhaps think that it would be suitable to make the Philosophical Fire, which the Trevisan (Bernard of Treviso) valued so much, and which he kept so secret.

Purgative Gold

Take some oil made of equal parts of purified antimony, sublimated Mercury, and oil of salt extracted in the usual way. Put them together in accordance with the Art, then distill them, and put some gold into the liquid that you extract from them. You will see it dissolve all of a sudden. This liquid, or solution of the Sun, is mixed with a little sugar or some good tasting jam, and it will do admirable works if you give of it at your discretion according to the age and the strength of the sick. If the liquid of this gold solution is drawn through the alembic,

a powder will be left at the bottom of the vessel. As it retains the mercurial virtues of antimony and the sublimate, it can be given, either in substance or as an infusion, as a purgative medicine, after it has been sweetened.

Or, if you precipitate the whole solution into cold water as soon as it is prepared, you will make of it a coagulate that is much more excellent than the usual ones, because it will contain the gold calx. Having been made milder by various ablutions, it will be a great purgative remedy, whether you give it in substance or as an infusion with some suitable liquid.

Gold of Life

Gold of Life, or Life Gold, is made with 1 part of pure gold and 4 parts of Mercury, amalgamated and dissolved together in common aquafortis, because Mercury dissolves in that water and the Sun is precipitated into powder. Now distill the aquafortis to dryness, so that everything may precipitate to the bottom. Put fresh aquafortis, on the dry matter, distil again, and repeat this two or three times. Finally, pile this substance to calcine it completely. To drive away all the sharpness of the aqua fortis, wash your call first with spring water, then with fine brandy, and you will have a miraculous precipitate. If you give of it only one or 2 drams, with 2 drams of essence of aloe and as much essence of myrrh, separately extracted, and one dram of essence of theriac, you will drive away the plague, inducing abundant perspiration, and you will make a purgative and sometimes a most excellent emetic.

If one wishes, one can. extract a salt or a very fine essence from this solar precipitate if, after softening it by several ablutions with common water, one puts it to digest for some time in vinegar. You can prepare an excellent medicine from it. After precipitating it with oil of tartar -- as must be done to extract its essence -- soften it yet more with common water, and finally with good spirit of wine.

Vegetable Gold

Take 1 dram of gold filings or gold calcined in any way you like, and 3 drams of lunar filings or lunar calx, 12 oz of Mercury of common cinnabar or of cinnabar made of antimony and sublimated. Put everything together in a big retort, and after stoppering it only with cotton, put it on a fire of moderate heat. You will see your materia grow from day to day in the form of leaves or sheets, and it will happen in less than 3 weeks, and will give you as much pleasure as amazement on seeing it. You will be able to turn it into a fine composition for health.

Calcined Philosophical Gold

Amalgamate 1 oz of gold with 7 oz of well-purified Mercury, stir them well on the fire with a stick, and after removing the materia from the fire, continue stirring it for a quarter of an hour. Then throw it into a bowl of cold water. After this, wash your materia with vinegar and water, then dry it in a clean cloth, and finally put it into 1 lb of gold aquafortis, keeping it in a retort above the fire till the Mercury is dissolved and your gold falls to the bottom as cola or impalpable powder. Put the latter in another retort with vinegar and boil it there for 6 hours. After that, pour the vinegar off and replace it with water which must again stay on the fire to sweeten your substance. Continue putting fresh water on it till all the spirits of the aquafortis are out. Thereafter, mix your powder with 6 oz of good prepared common salt, put it in a crucible covered by another pierced crucible, and set it in a small furnace

filled with live coal. Keep it there for 24 hours, then let the fire die above the crucibles. Finally, separate the salt with several ablutions of boiling water, and your gold will be left pure and clean, prepared and calcined according to the method of the philosophers.

Here you have several good methods of extracting the spirits of gold and the tinctures, and to turn them into a potable essence. We could give you several further descriptions which are contained in the writings of your author, who knew (as he himself says in his tetrad) more than 50 methods, but we will merely present these here, with the promise that we will soon inform you of the others.

Chapter III

Silver

A Good Preparation of Luna for the Diseases of the Brain ~ Another Preparation ~ Moon Oil ~ Moon Mercury ~ Calcination of Luna

A Good Preparation of Luna for the Diseases of the Brain

To prepare the Moon and to make of it a suitable remedy against the worst diseases of the brain, it must be calcined philosophically and then dissolved in fine oil of Cyprus, which alone has the power to liquify perfect metals without the help of saltpeter. When you have dissolved the Moon, evaporate or distill half of the dissolved materia and put the rest in a cold place, where small pieces of Moon crystals will form. You can dissolve them in oil of sage, and use them for mental derangement and other illnesses of this nature.

Another Preparation

A certain philosopher friend of mine and a great personality prepares an excellent remedy with the Moon in the following way: He calcines silver laminae with sulphur, putting them layer upon layer in two crucibles, careful that the sulphur does not ignite. To make the sulphur become black as coal, he separates it from the Moon filings with water, and afterwards finds his filings black calcined and ready to turn into a subtle cal when ground in a mortar. When he has prepared this calx, he puts it in a retort and pours some water over it. Then he distills and cohobates several times. He says that in this way the spirit of the Moon goes over partly with the water, and if only a few spoonfuls of this water are given to patients suffering from mental troubles, melancholy (depression) or other infirmities of the brain, they provide wonderful relief.

Moon Oil

Take laminae of the Moon cut into small pieces, and dissolve them in aquafortis rectified with salt of tartar or composed of the same salt. When your Moon is dissolved in this water, pour some good brandy on it and then let it stand for 24 hours in a cold and humid place. During this time, some small crystals will form at the bottom. In addition, take some whites of egg, distill them, and in this distilled water digest your crystals for 2 or 3 days.

Then put everything into an alembic, distill in the Bath, and at the bottom of the vessel a very precious silver oil will be left.

Moon Mercury

The Moon Mercury is extracted in various ways. Sometimes long and tedious triturations of common Mercury with the Moon are used till everything passes through a chamois leather in the form of quicksilver. Sometimes silver calx is used, made with common Mercury imbibed with oil of tartar and vinegar animated with sal ammoniac. It is afterwards revived by the hot water that separates the salts from the Moon calx, causing the Mercury to appear. This method is much better than that of the putrefactions performed by others in the reviving salts, which they sublime afterwards. Actually, the Moon Mercury can well be extracted in this way but only in very small amounts.

To extract Mercury more easily from silver, take very thin silver laminae, put them in a retort and pour on them a plant resuscitator calcined to whiteness, and on this put some Flying Eagle and sal ammoniac. The proportion is such that on 3 oz of Moon laminae enough plant resuscitator is put to cover the laminae, also 3 oz of Flying Eagle and 1-1/2 oz of sal ammoniac. Put everything in an earthenware pot on a fire which you must control according to the Art. You will find at the bottom your completely corroded Moon which will have left you 2 oz of liquid Mercury, or at least 1-1/2 oz, if you work regularly.

Calcination of Luna

Amalgamate 1 oz of cupeled Luna filings or sheets with 8 oz of purified Mercury. Grind this with common salt prepared in one hour in a Wooden mortar, then remove the salt with ablutions of common water. This done, grind the same materia again for 1 hour with very clean simple water. After that, put salt in the water and grind this amalgam again for 1 hour. Repeat the same thing with water alone, then with-salt, continuing this process up to 20 times. The last time, leave the salt and put everything in a big crucible on live coal, stirring and grinding this mixture continually till the Mercury is completely exhaled from it. Finally, wash the remaining substance with warm water to purify the salt, and you will find at the bottom of your vessel a very subtle Moon calx, very white, and such as must be the Philosophical calx of metals.

Chapter IV

Iron

Preparation of Iron Called Crocus Martis ~ Regulus of Mars ~ Tincture of Mars ~ Salt or Crystals of Mars

Preparation of Iron Called Crocus Martis

Take steel filings or very thin sheets and pour urine or common water on them. In a short time rust will form over the matter. As soon as you see it appear, throw your steel into boiling water which will attract all the rust if you stir the water for some time with your hands, as by such stirring you will separate what is most subtle. Do this several times to remove a good amount of the rust. Now take this materia and put it in a crucible in a wind furnace, and suddenly your Mars will get red. It will be very easy to dissolve it in an aqua fortis made of 2 parts of vitriol, 1 of common salt, and 2 of bole. If you leave your red steel in this water for 4 or 5 days, it will dissolve completely. If you separate the water from it with the alembic and raise the fire at the end, your salt will without fail sublimate and, put in a humid place, will turn into a very precious red oil.

Regulus of Mars

The Regulus can be prepared in various ways, but this one is considered the best: Take 4 oz of horse-shoe nails, put them in a crucible on a fierce fire to bring them to a red heat, then pour on them 8 oz of antimony with a little saltpeter, and all this will easily melt into water without the addition of tartar, as is usually done. Now break the crucible, and you will find the Regulus at the bottom. Melt it once more with 1 oz of saltpeter, then melt it again twice, and you will find 4 or 5 oz of very fine Regulus which will bear the impression of the star of Mars.

Tincture of Mars

Take some of the aforesaid Regulus of Mars, any quantity you like, and with Etampes sand or pumice stone, prepared in the way we have already indicated, put layer upon layer in a lured crucible. Then put it to calcine on a reverberation fire for 24 hours. When cold, powder all your materia and pour good white vinegar on it to extract its tincture, which will make your vinegar bright red and the most beautiful in the world. Give one spoonful of it in bouillon to women suffering from leukorrhea or the flux of maternal blood. This same remedy is also useful for stopping all kinds of hemorrhages and overflowings of the blood. With this Mars Regulus all metals can be adjusted to extract their tincture according to the method which we have prescribed, so as to make of it a remedy for an infinite number of diseases.

Salt or Crystals of Mars

Take some clinker, powder it as subtly as possible, then reverberate it for 24 hours and pour on it some good distilled vinegar to extract the salt or the crystal from your materia. When your extractor is colored, pour it off by inclination and replace it with some fresh. When you have enough tinged vinegar, distill it to dryness, and you will find a yellowish substance at the bottom of your vessel, which is the desired salt. You can, if you wish, make it as white as snow by again pouring fresh vinegar on it and letting it digest and distill

as before till your salt is quite white and crystalline, and the vinegar comes out as tasteless as water. If you give 1 or 2 spoonfuls of this water and about 5 or 6 grains of this salt, you will produce an incredible effect against jaundice, dropsy, cachexia (general debility), chlorosis or greensickness, and other similar diseases. What appears to be most wonderful is that this operation is done without violence and does not manifest by any other effect than that of the urine.

Chapter V

Copper

The Way of Extracting the Vitriol of Venus ~ Mercury of Venus

The Way of Extracting the Vitriol of Venus

The vitriol extracted from copper is considered by all philosophers the best of all, as much for human as for metallic bodies.

The method of extraction requires that one take the best copper calcined with sulphur, or some verdigris, or good aes ustum. One or another of these three prepared coppers is put in vinegar to extract its salt and crystals. Thereafter, the vinegar is evaporated to dryness. The materia left at the bottom of the vessel is what is called the vitriol of Venus.

It can be further prepared. Sometimes its oil is extracted, which is chiefly used for the precipitation of the Mercury of Venus. When the latter is precipitated, it serves as an excellent sudorific and bezoardic against all kinds of pestilences when only one or two grains are given.

Mercury of Venus

The shortest preparation of this Mercury is to take 1 part of the purest and freshest copper filings one can find, 2 parts of sublimated sal ammoniac, and as much or some more of salt of gold. These three are powdered as subtly as possible, and when mixed are put in a big flask which is buried in the sand and given a double fire, that is, above and under it, till the materia melts like wax. Then remove your flask from the sand and the fire, throw it into a vessel full of fresh water, and all of a sudden your Mercury flows in the water clear and clean and of a greenish color.

Take this Mercury of Venus, put it in an alembic pot, pour some good spirit of sulphur or vitriol upon it, keep it digesting for some time, then distill it. Put the distillate back on your copper marc and redistill. Continue this operation till your materia takes on the color of worries (black). To make it more harmless, sweeten it and rid it of the impressions of the salt by washing it several times with the proper waters. If this operation is done exactly, you will have in hand one of the greatest sudorific remedies against the plague, of which the dose is only a single grain, or at most two, with some suitable liquid.

Chapter VI

Tin

Specific Remedy Extracted from Flowers of Tin against Cramps of the Womb ~ An Excellent Remedy for Flushing the Eyes, Prepared with Tin

Specific Remedy Extracted from Flowers of Tin against Cramps of the Womb

The flowers of Jupiter must be extracted with an earthenware vessel, made up of several small pots. Put one on top of the other and seal them in such a way that they form only one body and one tube. Into this kind of vessel throw the Jupiter filings little by little, together with pulverized saltpeter. But before throwing this substance, your vessel must be brought to a red heat, and you will immediately see the spirit of the saltpeter rise, which will soon distill in the lower vessels. If you carry this procedure out according to the Art, you will cause Jupiter to sublime in the form of flowers, and finally you will see it distill in the other vessels that are underneath, so that you can extract at least 1/2 lb of spirit from 1 lb of Jupiter. However, I would not advise you to go as far as to extract this spirit, but you should rather stop at gathering the flowers as soon as they appear when they seem to be attached to the vessel white as snow. Do not give them time to melt, but distill them from below with the power of the fire, as in these flowers Jupiter is prepared in such a way that its salt can be extracted with vinegar. It can be used for many medicinal and metallic works, especially as this salt, when dissolved in moisture, turns into a wonderful oil for all female illnesses. If you give only 4 to 6 drops in some melissa cordial, or in any other suitable liquid, you will immediately stop all cramps of the womb.

An Excellent Remedy for Flushing the Eyes, Prepared with Tin

Before using the particular remedy for flushing the eyes, one has to use general ones and work, especially on the removal of the primary cause and the stopping of the discharges that fall from the brain on this noble part. Thereafter, bath the eyes of the patient with the water which you will prepare in the following way:

Melt fine tin over a slow fire and stir it as soon as it is completely melted into calx. This done, take 4 oz of this calx of Jupiter, 2 oz of Alexandrian tutty [crude zinc oxide – HWN], and 2 oz of crystal powder, mix these 3 powders, and put them in a crucible in the center of a strong coal fire. Leave it there till the fire has reached a white heat. Then remove your sparkling crucible and pour the materia, now completely kindled, into distilled vinegar out by inclination and put the materia into another crucible to make it red hot on the live coal, as before. Finally, quench it in vinegar, as above. But take note that the redness of the second ignition must be great and that the substance which is put on the fire a second time must be powdered, with the result that it is so dry and hot as to absorb in two times half of the distilled vinegar. As this materia has been extinguished twice, you must now let it rest for some time to let it settle at the bottom. Then evaporate the vinegar from it on a small ash-fire and a pasty substance will be left. Pour dew water upon it, rising above it by two or three fingers' breadth. Put it in a well-luted retort on an ordinary bath, and circulate it for 2 or 3 days. After this time, you will find a water which is, specific and suitable for all flushings of the sight, and this cure is all the more wonderful as it can be done in a few days. All that is necessary is to bathe the eyes 4 or 5 times to remove the cause of those tears which prevent the beauty of their function.

Chapter VII

Lead

Preparation of Saturn which is Efficient against the Lepra of Humans and Metallic Bodies, and of which an Oily Solvent can be made ~ Another Solvent of Gold by Crystals of Saturn ~ Oil of Saturn ~ Another Excellent Oil of Saturn Flowers of Saturn which are a Specific Remedy for Ophthalmias. ~ Extraction of the Mercury of Saturn ~ Another Method of Extracting the Mercury of Saturn ~ A Method of making the Glass of Saturn.

Preparation of Saturn which is Efficient against the Lepra of Human and Metallic Bodies, and of which an Oily Solvent can be made

Distill a large quantity of good vinegar, till you have a cask full of it, because it is the basis and the foundation of this Work. To strengthen it more, distill it several times over the feces, then mix everything you have distilled with as much other non-dephlegmatized vinegar, and let them go over together, so that the distillate will become all the more efficacious. The dregs that remain at the bottom are put in a retort over a good, fire by means of which one can extract an excellent oil from them, which can burn of its own and dissolve all kinds of minerals.

After preparing this solvent, take 80 lbs of powdered litharge -- and NOT white lead or minium of lead calx (oxide), as several artists do, especially Isaac Hollandus. Take, I say, this litharge and put it in several big and very strong flasks. Pour on it as much of your vinegar that it will overflow by 6 fingers' breadth, and then put it on an ash-fire. Extract the salt of Saturn by a slow digestion, and on the feces that are left after the extraction of the salt and the crystals, pour once more the same amount of menstruum as indicated above. Continue doing this till all your litharge has turned into crystals which are, properly speaking, what the philosophers call the Chaos or the metallic materia prima.

On this crystalline substance, again put for the last time fresh distilled vinegar. Dissolve it over a slow fire and filter it, so as to obtain a perfectly pure and flawless menstruum which, after: passing through the steam-bath, will leave a substance that melts like wax at the bottom of the alembic. It hardens in the cold as it melts in the heat. Thereafter, divide this melting substance among several alembics and little by little pour fresh menstruum upon it, as if to feed and water it only. Do this by first pouring on only two drops, then three, then five, then seven, increasing the amount in this way till the materia does not absorb any more. You will recognize this when you see the solvent coming out as acid as it was at the beginning. Therefore, whenever you distill your imbibed materia, take care that you continue till the phlegma is as acid as before, because this is how the child refuses the nurse's milk when its stomach is full. When the materia has been prepared in this way and converted into an excellent and precious gum, digest it in the steam bath for 30 or 40 days, till it becomes black and has a bad smell like that of liquid pitch. It is from this liquid and black pitch that you must extract, by the same bath, an excellent phlegma which can serve as a proper menstruum for extracting a precious salt from calcined earth, as we will write later. Owing to the continual distillation that you will make of the said pitch on sand, and by finally giving a strong fire above and below through the usual degrees up to a very violent fire, you will extract a red and quite ' thick oil which, together with the preceding distillations, will constitute as strong and violent a water as that extracted from wine, and will have the same great power. The philosophers call it water of life (brandy) of Saturn. Its

substance is so pure and subtle that it must be kept in a well-closed vessel lest it evaporate.

To complete the perfection of this solvent, this water of life of Saturn must be put in a gentle bath, in a long-necked alembic, where the purest spirit of this water will rise imperceptibly till you see the appearance of some lines and filaments through the glass of the head. It is an infallible sign that all of the spirit has risen, and you must therefore stop this distillation and extract this first precious spirit. Preserve it carefully in a cold place and in a well-sealed container. After this spirit, a milky phlegma will appear in a stronger bath. It will be much better for washing your calcined materia than the first of which we spoke above. Finally, by a stronger degree of fire and after changing the receptacle, you will still separate an ardent spirit which will first come out white and watery, then red and oily, but it will be heavy and lie at the bottom of the receptacle. However, if you wish, you can make it go over with a stronger fire.

In regard to the earth or the feces that are left at the bottom of the retorts as a black powder, they can also be dissolved with some fresh distilled vinegar and thus turn into new lapilli of a sticky and gummy consistency, and finally, by means of the above-mentioned digestions and distillations, into wonderfully active and burning spirits. There are some who divide this earth into two, but although Isaac (Hollandus) himself adopts this division, I am nevertheless of the opinion that the best and shortest method is to calcine all the earth together and to reverberate it by a gentle flame till it becomes yellow like ochre. When this earth has become yellow due to the cohobation of the phlegmas, the salt can again be separated from it, according to the ordinary rules and operations of the Art.

Having achieved the extraction of this rare and precious salt, take the first salt which you have little by little extracted and which you have preserved. Pour it on 1 oz of the last salt, repeating this imbibition till 1 oz of this salt weighs 3 or 4 oz and has retained the weight of the sal ammoniac of this spirit, till finally the volatile exceeds the fixed. If you work this process exactly, you will find an excellent earth at the bottom. Sublimate it in a very clear and well sealed glass vessel, and you will have the pleasure of seeing in it the sublimation of a Philosophical Mercury in the form of a fine talc, which you must keep as a most valuable substance.

To crown this work, take 1 part of this Mercury and add it to 4 parts of the above-mentioned spirit or to as much ardent spirit to make of them a solvent for the Sun and the Moon, such as the philosophers imagined were capable of turning them into spirit without destroying their bodies or losing ' their characteristics. Therefore, wonderful works can be made with this truly philosophical solvent, both for the health of human and of metallic bodies. It can even be made with coral and litharge, and in that case you will without doubt make the finest and most harmless of all solvents.

Another Solvent of Gold by Crystals of Saturn

Take minium, or better, litharge. Dissolve it twice in vinegar then filter and congeal it. Repeat this operation of dissolving, filtering, and congealing three times. When at the last time you have congealed to the consistency of oil, put your congealation in a cold place for 8 or 10 days, during which time small ice-like crystals will form. Remove all their humor by inclination and dry them very gently near the fire on a piece of cloth. After that, put the thus dried pieces of crystals in an alembic pot with some good brandy, three times rectified on common salt prepared and melted, each time renewing the same salt or rather passing it over sulphur or vitriol. Then set everything to digest in the bath for 3 or 4 days. Finally,

distill this brandy thus rectified over the pieces of crystal of which we have spoken, to the consistency of honey or oil. That done, coagulate your materia again into small crystal cubes and crush them with calcined gold, that is, 6 weights of ice cubes to 1 of gold. Now put everything into a well-closed retort in the horse's Belly for 40 days. Then put your vessel on an ash-fire to gently distill all the moisture from it. By putting it on sand afterwards, extract the oil with much white smoke which the philosophers call menstruals. Do this by raising the fire according to the degrees of the Art.

To bring this work to a happy end, take all the oil and put it in a small alembic in a very gentle B. M., first to extract the brandy and secondly the phlegma, which you can discern from the brandy by the tears that fall into the receptacle. Now take this brandy and, pour it on the feces of your oil, and leave both thus in the bath for 1 or 2 days, till your water is colored. Thereafter, distill your colored water, pour it back on the materia, and distill it again. Continue distilling and putting your water back on the feces of the oil till you have extracted all the tincture. If the waters extracted from your oil were not sufficient for the complete extraction of your tincture, put them back in a gentle bath to draw out one-third which is to be used once more for extracting the rest of the tincture contained in the feces of your oil, by the above-indicated process. Finally, withdraw from your bath all your tinged brandy (which can always be useful), and you will find a golden oil at the bottom, excellent for health when flavored with oil of cinnamon and given with the specific waters for the diseases you wish to fight with its power.

Oil of Saturn

Take lead calx and dissolve it in good vinegar, then filter and evaporate 3 parts of your vinegar with a slow fire. Let the rest coagulate for 24 hours, or in the air if it is in winter, during which time the salt of the lead turns into (crystals) ice cubes. Then separate your vinegar by inclination and put the crystals on a small ash-fire to separate them from the rest of the vinegar, which you may have left. This operation is done by means of the bath, till your crystals are left completely dry-When in, this state put them, after powdering them, in a flask and-pour on them fresh vinegar of the same strength as the previous. Then dissolve, filter, and evaporate 2 of the 3 parts of your menstruum. Finally, let small pieces of crystals form in the cold air or in a cold cellar, as before. Thereafter, distill the rest of your vinegar in a retort and at a slow fire to begin with, then at such a degree of heat that a red oil appears. When this happens, take immediately another receptacle, and by increasing the flame-fire, you will extract all the oil of Saturn, which has various properties for the medicine of human bodies and that of metals.

Another Excellent Oil of Saturn

Extract the calcined salt of Saturn or of white lead according to the method of the Art, then dissolve, filter, and coagulate it with h common water till it is perfectly clear and crystalline. Now put it to circulate for some time in B.M. with a good spirit of wine, in order to make it purer than it is after ordinary preparations. Finally, it has to be put back in the same bath with dew water and be circulated as before. The thus prepared salt turns into a precious oil of which 4 or 5 drops only, mixed with a suitable liquid, are a very great and very powerful remedy for all internal inflammations, pneumonias, pleurisies, liver complaints, fevers, and the like. Its powers are even greater because they put an end to all inflammations and heal even ophthalmias if a little of this oil is mixed with tutty [crude zinc oxide – HWN]. It is also excellent for all kinds of cankerous ulcers.

Flowers of Saturn which are a Specific Remedy for Ophthalmias

Prepare a clay vessel made up of 8 or 9 little pots, put one upon the other, as we said in the chapter on tin. After the vessel is red-hot, throw some lead filings mixed with saltpeter through the tube, little by little. Then you will see the spirit of saltpeter distill through the beak of the first pot counting from the bottom, and the sweetness of Saturn will rise in the other, upper vessels in the form of flowers, of which you can make a salt with vinegar. When this salt is turned into oil, you will have an excellent remedy for ophthalmia and all diseases of the eye.

Extraction of the Mercury of Saturn

Take 2 lbs of minium, such as it is, when it can easily be converted into glass. Put it in a crucible in the midst of a strong fire and imbibe it 6 or 7 times with good vinegar. Then add to the thus prepared minium an equal amount of crude tartar, and finally distill this mixture of minium and tartar through the retort for 12 hours, but take care to make the fire strong from the beginning. You will have 17 oz of Mercury in your receptacle which must be half filled with cold water. At the bottom of the retort there will be real gold. One can reasonably imagine that it is the gold which the philosophers call the fired grain separated from its vie: curt', and in fact such. a Saturnian Mercury is much lighter and brisker than vulgar mercury.

Another Method of Extraction the Mercury of Saturn

Mix 2 lbs of minium with as much good tartar, and put them in a glazed pot pierced by small holes at the bottom. Put this pot on another that is neither glazed nor pierced, and put it underground to serve as a receptacle, but only after you have carefully luted the joints and put some fresh water at the bottom to attract the Mercury and prevent the breakage of the vessel. Finally, cover the pot that contains the materia with another very tightly luted pot and give it a moderate fire for the first 6 hours, then a stronger fire for the next 6, and finally a very strong fire during the last 6 hours -- and you will find the Mercury of Saturn at the bottom of your receptacle.

A Method of Making the Glass of Saturn

Saturn is a metal whose effects are so great and wonderful for the health of human bodies that it can not only do great things in the state in which we have just prepared it but also if it is vitrified by means of calcinations according to the rules of the true philosophy. Because glass is the extreme degree and the ultimate perfection to which all things can be brought by the Art, you must therefore not doubt that the glass of lead has in itself not only a very pure substance but, in addition, an abundance of salt, even greater than can be found in any other metal. This is so because Saturn abounds so much in salt that the other two Principles, which are the liquids and the sulphurs, disappear completely, with the result that usually only the pure salt is left behind. Often it exceeds the weight of the metal from which it is extracted by more than half. That is why the philosophers who seek the Mercury and the Sulphur of Saturn cry out so loud, *Cavete, cavete a vitrificatione*" (beware of the vitrification). This teaches us that all metals which contain more Salt than the other two Principles can be entirely vitrified. Among these there is Saturn which, being better provided with Salt than with Mercury and Sulphur, can easily turn into glass. This does not mean that the other metals cannot also be turned into glass by the length and the power of a continual fire. The exception is gold, which, being of a more perfect nature than the other metals cannot also be turned into glass by the length and the power of a continual fire and due to the great equality and combination of the Elements it contains, can in no way be

turned into glass, because it is so richly composed of Water, Earth, and Air that nothing can produce in it any alteration of rust or corruption, and even fire cannot impress any change on its mass. This is all the more so as it is of a fiery nature and that instead of being destroyed by fire, it is rather preserved by it, according to this axiom of Nature: Like things love and preserve their like.

In regard to iron, it is not absolutely Impossible to vitrify it, although it can only be turned into glass with great difficulty. This is so because it contains much more Sulphur, which has a fiery nature, than Salt which, as we have said, is the basis of all vitrifications. Salt having an earthy nature, is purified by the continual power of the fire and can easily turn into glass and a pellucid and transparent nature.

It is hardly less difficult to turn silver into glass than iron, because it is of a very fixed substance, and it only occurs if it is partly driven to this perfection by the addition of salts and the length of strong fires. Even then it does not become real glass but rather a stone of a hyacinth color. The violence of the fire will have caused it to lose its own sapphire color, because it is volatile and not completely fixed like the substance of silver.

But let us return to our Saturn which is the foundation for making all kinds of artificial stones, after the artists have turned it into small pieces of ice with the help of the acid plant solvent. Now then, the glass of Saturn is made as follows:

Take 4 parts of minium, 1 part of Etamps sand or small white river pebbles, well-calcined. Put them in a crucible over a strong fire, and you will promptly make glass that is yellow in color and of a transparent nature, which can give good ingress to medicines that are too fixed and too dry, consequently deprived of their inceration.

Note that this glass of Saturn is in no way composed of a mixture of pebbles or of anything else that could be added to its vitrification, but that it is such by its own nature. To prove it, do as follows: Restore the metallic nature that it had before, and without calcining it at all; put it, all lead that it is, in a tightly luted crucible in the furnace of a glassmaker or a potter. After removing your materia, grind what has not vitrified the first time, and put it back in the furnace to be reverberated again. Continue doing this 3 or 4 times, and you will find that your Saturn has completely turned into a very beautiful glass, quite suitable for making precious stones. If you wish to avoid pulverizing your materia so often, you have only to put it in the fire of the glassmaker, and at the end of the 5 or 6 days that it has been in this continual fire, it will not fail to become vitrified just as well as by any other method.

I think that if one were to sublimate this glass of Saturn with sal ammoniac, it could be melted with a candle and thus be turned into transparent wax. Also, if this same glass were first powdered and then mired with camphor or amber or with some other resin or sulphurous and transparent gum, one could make beautiful and pellucid sealing wax from it, which would in truth only be suitable for Lords, as it would be extremely costly.

Chapter VIII

Mercury

Purification of Mercury ~ Another Purification of Mercury ~ Sublimation of Mercury ~ Another Sublimation of Mercury ~ Another Excellent Precipitate of Mercury ~ Precipitate of Mercury without Aquafortis ~ Red Precipitate of Mercury by Means of Gold ~ Red Mercury Precipitated by Means of Quicklime ~ Mercury Precipitated in all Kinds of Colors ~ Diaphoretic and Fixed Precipitated Mercury ~ Another Diaphoretic and Fixed Precipitated Mercury ~ Mineral Turpeth ~ Another Mineral Turpeth ~ Another Mineral Turpeth by a Flemish Physician ~ Essencified Mercury ~ Mercurial Brandy ~ Another Mercurial Brandy ~ Sweet Oil of Mercury ~ Another Excellent Sweet Oil of Mercury ~ Mercurial Water ~ Another Mercurial Water ~ Another Mercurial Water or Virgin's Milk of Sublimated Mercury.

Purification of Mercury

Take good sublimated Mercury and dissolve it in aquafortis made of equal parts of moderately calcined vitriol and saltpeter. When your Mercury is well dissolved, put the solution into a small alembic to separate the three parts on a small ash-fire. After that, uncover your curcurbit and put it completely uncovered in a bowl filled with water to the rim of the materia. Then put everything in a very cold and very humid cellar. At the end of 6 days, you will find your Mercury which will mostly have turned into small pieces of (crystals) ice. The rest will remain separate in the form of a black earth which is nothing but the slag and the useless feces.

Another Purification of Mercury

Take common Mercury and sublimate it 10 times, but the salt and the vitriol must be renewed each time, and it must also be well washed with boiling water after each sublimation. All foreign things attached to Mercury will thereby be dissolved, such as the spirit of vitriol and salt. In addition, this water will cleanse it of its poisonousness and blackness. As a result, after these 10 sublimations and 10 ablutions it will become exceedingly pure and flawless, and consequently suitable for all beautiful chemical operations.

Sublimation of Mercury

Take some good strong Mercury, quite flawless and carefully selected, mortify it with aquafortis and turn it into small pieces of crystals (ice). Put 4 lbs of these crystals together with 2 lbs of salt and 4 lbs of either Hungarian or Cyprian vitriol. When everything is well mixed together and the Mercury can no longer be discerned, put it into two good earthenware pots, tightly fitting and carefully luted, of which the upper must be pierced above. After they are well installed on a sublimation furnace, give fire by degrees, and when the matter no longer exhales any phlegma, it will be the sign that al' of the Mercury will rise. You will recognize it on an iron knife or a copper foil. Then stopper the hole with some paper, stir your coal fire and make it very strong for 8 or 9 hours, and for 3 hours afterwards make a flame-fire with wood. At the end you will have a very fine sublimate, a white flour which will have risen to the highest point, and a liquid Mercury that has revived.

Separate them and then calcine the liquid Mercury together with that which has risen like white flour in fresh aquafortis. Imbibe also the sublimate with fresh aquafortis. Finally, take everything and mix it with fresh salt and fresh crude vitriol, in the same proportion as above, then put your materia back into the same earthenware pots as before and give fire through the degrees of sublimation. At last, take the sublimate, the one that you will find hard and firm, and also the one in the form of flour or a white powder, crush both with an equal amount of vitriol, which must be prepared in such a way that after being dephlegmatized and imbibed with its own phlegm by repeated distillations, it finally turns into philosophical colcothar (caput mortuum or death's head).

When this sublimate and this colcothar are well milled, they are put together into a glass bottle, or better, into a very big flask, and buried in the sand in a sublimation furnace. Now increase the fire so much that the vessel will finally be red-hot, and in 6 or 7 hours your Mercury will rise very beautiful and very crystalline, carrying with it the best essence or the best sulphur of vitriol. Continue thus till your Mercury does not absorb any more, which you will recognize by the weight of your sublimate: After it has been completely prepared, it no longer increases as before, because until then the sublimate, absorbing the spirits of vitriol and salt, had increased in weight by 2 oz, or at least by 1-1/2 oz. Take note of this, as it is the true weight and the true measure of the philosophers and sages, which they never wished to reveal and always kept secret.

Another Sublimation of Mercury

Calcine 2 lbs of Roman vitriol over a very slow fire, or better, take Hungarian vitriol. Put this vitriol into a glazed earthenware bowl, always stirring it with a spatula, lest the drying vitriol adhere to the sides of the bowl. When it looks like a paste, gradually pour it into 1 lb of good Mercury of cinnabar through a linen cloth, and blend everything so well together that the Mercury can no longer be seen. Then add to it 1 lb of prepared common salt, grind everything well together on a marble slab, and put this mixture into two bowls. Give the same degrees of fire as we have said in regard to the preceding sublimation, and you will make a very fine sublimate. Now add fresh materia to this sublimate and resublimite it as above, up to 7 times. It is not necessary to add salt to the last sublimations, it being sufficient to add philosophically desiccated vitriol, that is, imbibed with its phlegma by several distillations. In this way you will make one of the finest and most perfect sublimates in the world.

Excellent Precipitate of Mercury

To make an excellent precipitate of Mercury, take 2 parts of oil of vitriol or sulphur and 1 of Mercury, cinnabar, or silver. Dissolve the m together with a slow heat, and when you have dissolved 1/2 lb of Mercury in 1 lb of oil, add 4 oz of sea salt or colcothar salt, according to some alchemists, or of salt of tartar, which is the only one capable of softening the aquafortis and the sharp spirits of vitriol. By adding some common spring water, the Mercury is precipitated to the bottom in the form of a fine coagulate. Now it is washed with as much soft water that it becomes pleasant to the taste. Then add a stimulating water, and finally some brandy which is to be burnt over it and an excellent precipitate will be left. Others, after adding one or another of the salts of which we have spoken, pour into it spring water distilled to dryness. They renew these distillations several times with common water, and when the materia is dry at the bottom of the alembic, they sublimate it, because in this sublimation the Mercury attracts the sharp spirit of vitriol, so that it cannot disappear in any distillation. Consequently, it is held in suspicion by the medical doctors and is dangerous for the sick. Therefore they pass it through the whites of egg. However, the first method of these precipitates seems to me to be the best.

There are others who pass the aquafortis frequently over the Mercury, as we will explain later in connection with the turpeth mineral of the Flemish (Hollandus?) As far as I am concerned, I would prefer to sublimate Mercury by precipitating it with the oil of sulphur and putting on it prepared sea salt, so as to let the Mercury be saturated with the fire of Nature. Then, with the same water, that is, the Mercury of Luna, I would make of my true Mercury of life an excellent remedy for the poxes, scrofula, and all other deplorable diseases.

Another Excellent Precipitate of Mercury, Composed and Used by the Sieur de la Violette

Dissolve some Mercury in a very special aquafortis made of true Hungarian vitriol, good saltpeter, and those small Hungarian garnets that are full of solar sulphur. Pass the water 3 or 4 times over the feces till it takes on the color of a highly-colored hyacinth and is saturated with the sulphur of the aforesaid garnets because, when you throw your Mercury into this water, it attracts the solar sulphur of these garnets, and in this way you will make of it an excellent remedy, while it would otherwise be more harmful than useful. The Mercury to be precipitated must necessarily be that of cinnabar or of antimony. Dissolve it in this aqua fortis till it is completely changed into water. Now precipitate it in spring water in which you have previously dissolved some prepared common salt, or better, the salt extracted from the colcothar. You will suddenly see your Mercury coagulate at the bottom. Thereafter, pour off the clear water by inclination and wash the coagulate with as much soft water that no sharpness is left. Now boil this soft calx with coral brandy, then wash everything with dew water, and when the materia is quite dry, pour some good spirit of wine over it, burning it on the matter to dryness. The same white calx or the same coagulate can be made with common aquafortis, then precipitated into salt water, and finally softened and dried. This last precipitate can be used for cancer and external ulcers, but I would not give any of it internally, unless it were first sublimated and resublimated several times.

The best precipitation of Mercury is made with, the oils of common salt or nitre, or with the acidifies of sulphur and vitriol, which are the true mountain vinegars whose effects, even when joined to those of Mercury, are not as harmful or emetic as those of sal ammoniac or distilled vinegar, which can only be removed with difficulty, even if they are washed by several and different ablutions. Therefore, if you wish to precipitate the Mercury of cinnabar or antimony with the above-mentioned oils, take 2 parts of one of these oils to 1 part of Mercury, put everything in a flask on a slow fire till all of the Mercury is dissolved and has completely turned into water. Thereafter, first pour on it 3 or 4 oz of good prepared salt, and secondly, spring water, so as to coagulate your Mercury into a white coagulate. Then soften it as much as you can by passing it several times through stimulating waters and finally through brandy, and thus you will make an excellent precipitate of Mercury. There are some who sublimate it on prepared salt and the soft sublimate, and thus get a very useful purgative from it.

Precipitate of Mercury without Aquafortis

Take quicksilver and gold, make an amalgam of them as the goldsmiths do, then separate the Mercury as much as possible through a leather. Put the matter that did not pass in a flask which, sealed or not, is put in an athanor where your materia will soon rise to the top of the glass and will gradually become red. Take care not to increase the fire, lest the Mercury evaporate before it is completely digested. In this way you will have a Mercury

precipitated by gold, whose powers are wonderful and quite numerous. The main ones are the following:

First, this powder is excellent for the cure of gout, if you give once a Month half a dram with 2 oz of bugloss preserve in the form of pills. It is also wonderful for venereal diseases, because if you give only 4 or 6 grains with some preserve or wine for 8 days, you will completely cure syphilis.

If you use silver instead of gold when making your amalgam, and you give 4 grains of it together with betony or melissa preserve, you will assuredly cure mental derangements, melancholy (depression) and even epilepsy, provided you add to this precipitate some peony water.

Red Precipitate of Mercury by Means of Gold

Take 6 parts of Mercury of cinnabar or some other, 1 part of calcined gold. Amalgamate them together and put only 1-1/2 oz in each flask on a continuous athanor fire. They must not be hermetically closed, to allow the humor of Mercury to evaporate. In three weeks at most you will see the most beautiful red precipitate and the most useful for health that can be imagined.

Red Mercury Precipitated by Means of Quicklime

With the help of quicklime that has only been coarsely ground one day, it is possible to make an extremely red precipitate of common Mercury. The method of making it well is to put common Mercury in an alembic and upon it enough of this new cal to cover the Mercury by 4 fingers' breadth. Give fire by degrees, to make it come out into the receptacle half filled with water. The Mercury will leave a portion of its substance intermixed with that of the calx. Then take what has passed into the receptacle, which you will find much purer and more flawless than before. Wipe it clean and put it back into the alembic, in such a way that it sinks to the bottom, which will easily happen owing to its heaviness. Raise the fire further by degrees and repeat this operation 6 or 7 times, for the more you repeat it, the better the result will be, because Mercury will always decrease in weight. Finally, take this matter, that is, the calx at the bottom of the alembic, and dissolve it in a big bowl of water, stirring it by hand and making the lightest part come out, in the same way as minium is prepared. By several ablutions your calx will pass from one earthenware pot to another, with the result that at the bottom of your bowl only the Mercury precipitated by the spirits of the salt will remain as red as field poppies.

Mercury Precipitated in all Kinds of Colors

Mercury can be precipitated in any color one wishes if, after dissolving it in aqua fortis, you throw into it all the things that can precipitate and color it. Thus you will make it white as milk if you throw sea salt in the aquafortis that has dissolved it. You will make it quite red if you throw urine into the same aquafortis. You can make it tan-colored red by pouring on oil or salt of tartar, and you will make it become quite green by putting some salt of Venus (copper) into it. In short, you can metamorphose it into all the colors you wish with the various salts whose properties are taught by philosophy.

Diaphoretic and Fixed Precipitated Mercury

First you must make an aqua fortis of saltpeter, alum, and vitriol, 1-1/2 oz of each. After it

is well dephlegmatized, dissolve in 2 lbs of this water 1 oz of antimony; of talcum, cinnabar, and sulphur 1-1/2 oz each; of the sublimate, the verdigris, and the Crocus Martis 1/2 oz each. When everything has been soaking for 24 hours, remove all the water with a very strong fire till all the spirits have passed. After having well dephlegmatized it, dissolve very good Mercury in it, which will precipitate at the 4th distillation, and if you raise the fire for the last, you will find your Mercury at the bottom of the alembic, turned into a very red and fixed powder. You can soften it with several ablutions of fresh water, and if you wish to make it wonderful for the health and even for chemical works, pour up to 9 times tartarized brandy over it, till it comes out insipid or soft. Instead of common Mercury, some take Mercury of cinnabar which they revivify or else weaken with sulphur, resuscitating it afterwards with brandy or brandy of tartar.

Another Diaphoretic and Fixed Precipitated Mercury

You must well purify the amount of Mercury of antimony or of cinnabar that you wish to take, then precipitate it all by itself by putting it on the fire in a flask of good glass, hermetically closed, letting it thus gently boil in an athanor for 20 or 25 days, or the time needed to precipitate it completely. After that, dissolve it in twice distilled vinegar, pouring fresh distilled vinegar over the precipitated mercury till it is completely dissolved. When you have reduced it to this condition, put it in a glass bowl with a flat and quite smooth bottom, so that it settles in the center quite congealed, discarding around it the evil-smelling excrements and scoriae which are not homogeneous.

In the meantime, rectify a good oil of the Green Lion and pass it three times through the beak of the vessel, together with its spirit. The fourth time, pass the oil alone through the alembic with a moderately hot ash-fire, and what will stay in it is the germ or the salt of the oil, which is quite suitable for extracting the spirit of gold. What has come out is the phlegma which we need to soften our Mercury. This phlegma, or this rectified oil, is put on the purified Mercury, so as to float over the materia by 3 fingers' breadth. This must be done in a small glass alembic on a moderate and temperate ash-fire. Keep your vessel on it for 7 hours, then separate your oil by distillation according to the degrees of the Art, and your Mercury will be left congealed in whiteness at the bottom of the vessel.

Put the same oil back on the congealed Mercury, distill it again, and continue doing this till the oil has lost all its power. When this has happened, strengthen the stomach of the Ostrich with some fresh liquid of the Green Lion, digesting it as often as you did before, and repeat this till the rectified -Mercury becomes blood red. This done, take this rubified Mercury and powder it subtly in a hermetically sealed flask of very strong glass. Keeping it in an athanor on a suitable fire, you will have a fixed Mercury in 7 days, which can be called the true diaphoretic Mercury and can be used as an excellent remedy for several great diseases.

Mineral Turpeth

Take Mercury of cinnabar or antimony, put it in a flask, pour on it enough oil of vitriol to overflow it by 2 or 3 fingers' breadth, and leave everything in the cold till the Mercury turns into calx. Distill this Gala to a liquid through the retort or the alembic, pour some more fresh oil of vitriol, on it, then distill. Now again pour some fresh oil on it and distill once more. Do this 4 or 5 times, and you will find a yellow powder. After it is well dried, wash it carefully with common water to remove its acrimony, then finally add some spirit of wine and distill. If you wish to make it more harmless and perfect, pour some dew water on it and distill it like the spirit of wine. Thus you will have an excellent turpeth, of which the

dose is 6 to 12 grains at most.

Another Mineral Turpeth

Take 1 oz of rolled gold leaf and 12 oz of Mercury, dissolve the gold in aqua regia and the Mercury in common aquafortis. Unite these two solutions, and an Eclipse with result. Thereafter distill by degree, and increase it at the end as much as you can. Break your retort, pulverize the precipitated substance at the bottom, put the latter back into an another retort, and pour all the water that you have distilled 3 or 4 times over it.

The last time, increase your fire to make everything rise that can be sublimated. Take only what is at the bottom, powder it and put it in a crucible over live coal to expel the spirits of the aquafortis as much as possible. Take this powder, triturate it well on a marble slab and then in a glass mortar, pound it with common distilled water, and you will see some grease floating over your powder. Pour it out and preserve it. Repeat this ablution with fresh water till nothing greasy floats on top and your water comes out as soft as when you poured it on. This water is such that if you touch cankerous or syphilitic ulcers with it, it will consume the dead flesh by pricking the live a little, and will certainly cure them.

In regard to the remaining powder, take care to wash it with cordial waters and finally with the theriacal water of Paracelsus, which he makes with theriac, myrrh, saffron, and brandy, because your powder will draw out their fragrance and will become more restorative because of it. This powder is used to cause a mild vomiting, which is necessary for the treatment of syphilis and the poxes, and it will cause at least 7 or 8 movements of the bowel, if you give 6 or 7 grains in substance with some rose preserves. Occasionally, its action continues to the following day, and therefore the second dose must not be given till the third day, as the latter will not only purge till the following day but sometimes for three or four days more. Accordingly, you must not administer any while it is working and must wait with the third dose till the purgation of the second is over, at Which time you can confidently give the third, which will purge for many days. By this method the Naples sickness (cholera) is cured, even if it were accompanied by a thousand ulcers, for even the first dose stops all pain, and the others cut the root of the illness.

Another Mineral Turpeth by a Flemish Physician

He makes his mineral turpeth by precipitating Mercury into a good oil of vitriol or sulphur, well dephlegmatized, passing this oil twice or three times over the Mercury. To soften it greatly, he washes it with various waters and turns it as he pleases either into a purgative or a sudorific. To make it purgative, he mixes it with scammony or some other cathartic, and he gives only a few grains of this mixture. To make it sudorific, however, he fixes it by the addition of saltpeter which he ignites and washes with several ablutions. The ordinary dose is 18 grains, and the extraordinary 1 scruple, which is given to those one wishes to perspire a great deal.

Essencified Mercury

Take common Mercury, purify it well beforehand by distilling it 3 or 4 times through the retort with crude Montpellier tartar. Then make a precipitate with aquafortis, cohobate it three times, the last time giving a strong fire to drive out all the spirits. Now dissolve it in vinegar, and continue pouring fresh on till the matter is completely dissolved. Do this on an ash-fire, where you will finally distill the vinegar to dryness. Upon this dry matter pour common water and distill it. Repeat this 4 times, each time renewing the water, then distill

it to dryness and put your dried materia for, two weeks to digest with spirit of wine. After this time, separate this spirit by distillation, but be careful not to open the vessel before twice 24 hours, because during this time the matter will dissolve completely. Crystals will form at the neck of the retort, and at the bottom of the retort you will find an ash-colored oil in which you can dissolve the call of the Sun according to the Art, that is, 1 part of the gold cal in 3 parts of oil. After that, it congeals into a red powder in an athanor within 20 days. Of this powder one gives the dose of 1-1 /2 grains in wine. It purges from below and through perspiration, and one can cure syphilis, dropsy, and several other illnesses.

Mercurial Brandy

Take 4 oz of antimony, some tin and some lead, of each half a pound. Melt the tin and the lead in a crucible, then add the antimony, and when everything is quite hot, add 1 lb of tartar and 1 lb of saltpeter. Pulverize and make a Regulus. When cold, cast it into an ingot, pulverize this materia and put it in a retort with a sand-fire. Add 2 parts of sublimate. Now attach a big receptacle and increase the fire, so that nothing can come out any longer. Note that there will be some revived antimony at the bottom of the receptacle, which you must separate. To gather the mercurial brandy, one has only to pour water into the receptacle, and it will immediately turn white. Pour everything into a big earthenware pot, and after, your flowers have settled at the bottom and the water has cleared, pour this water off and replace it with fresh one till it becomes tasteless. Then your mercurial brandy is ready. It can even be better prepared for the sick by cooking it for 3 or 4 days in a hermetically closed flask on very hot sand, then burning on it 7 or 8 times very carefully rectified brandy. (ordinary brandy, Not mercurial brandy). The dose is from 2 to 4 grains in some preserve, and is given for scrofula, syphilis, ulcers, worms, and other illnesses.

Another Mercurial Brandy

Take some good Mercury sublimated with vitriol in the way we have taught. Dissolve it in aquafortis made of vitriol and saltpeter, distill it to dryness, and then give a good sublimation fire. Take what has been sublimated, dissolve it again in fresh aquafortis, distill and resublimite it immediately. Continue doing this till there are no more feces at the bottom. You must always separate the latter, and by these repeated dissolutions and sublimations you will prepare a sublimate that is very beautiful, transparent, and crystalline, whose feces are as beautiful as the sublimate. By this process you will obtain a quintessence of Mercury. Some make it in another way by sublimating the Mercury 7 times with salt, without using aquafortis. I find, however, that the Mercury always takes the spirits of vitriol away, becoming abundantly saturated with them, and this is what you have to watch out for as the most important thing. When you have turned this sublimate into such a quintessence, put it in a hermetically sealed flask in an athanor fire or a fire that does not exceed the heat of the sun, and calcine it for 20 days. Thereafter, put the thus calcined powder in an alembic in a steam bath, making sure that the water does not touch the alembic. Your sublimated Mercury will dissolve and distill into a mercurial water or Virgin's Milk, with which the spirit of vitriol will go over, which is a wonderful solvent.

Another Excellent Sweet Oil of Mercury

Take some gum of Mercury brandy, saturated as much as possible with the fire of Nature. Distill and purify it just once. With this clear, heavy and mercurial liquid which coagulates in the cold. into crystals, mix some excellent spirit of salt previously circulated with good spirit of wine. Then separate it from your chilled mercurial materia till it is completely dissolved and no longer freezes. When it is in this state, take this mixture and put it to putrefy in B.

M. or in the Horse's Belly for 42 days, which is one philosophical month. During this time you will see wonders happen with the, colors. Thus your pungent materia will become soft (sweet) through the conjunction of the spirit of salt and the digestion in heat, and it will of itself become a great and sovereign medicine. As it is not emetic, it is very excellent for health. The normal dose is 2 or 3 drops in any suitable liquid, or mixed with some syrup or pleasant preserve.

Mercurial Water

Take 1 lb of good sublimated Mercury, 12 oz of crude antimony; grind, mix, and put everything together in a retort on ashes, in a fire of degrees, and you will distill a substance like milk. Distill this milk separately and you will extract a clear water. Put this water in an alembic and remove its phlegma in the bath. Then you will find at the bottom a mineral mercurial water which dissolves all bodies and causes the Sun to pass through the alembic. Instead of crude antimony, take some Regulus, and you will do better.

Another Mercurial Water

Take 1 lb of good sublimate, 1 lb of sublimated sal ammoniac, mix them, sublimate them 4 or 5 times, each time pouring the sublimate back over the feces, then grind them together. Remember to mate the sublimation in a big retort attached to a fairly big jar for receiving the sal ammoniac and everything that goes over. Keep this materia moist in order to dissolve it, and when it is dissolved, distill it as an aquafortis. Then take the feces, pound them and resublimite them with a quarter of the sal ammoniac. Keep it moist again and distill it, then add the waters of which you will have a large amount and which are really mercurial waters.

Chapter IX

Antimony

Elixir of Antimony ~ Essence of Antimony ~ Another Essence of Antimony ~ Antimony Precipitate ~ Sudorific of Antimony ~ Crocus or Sulphur of Antimony (Hepar Antimon) ~ Mixed Tincture of Antimony ~ Flowers of Antimony ~ Regulus of Antimony ~ Crystals of Antimony ~ Salt of Antimony ~ Oil of Antimony ~ Another Oil of Antimony ~ Mercury of Antimony.

Elixir of Antimony

Antimony is hermaphroditic, male and female, of both natures, Sulphur and, Mercury, fixed and volatile, the first-born of the metallic nature, middle substance between Mercury and metal, the only natural solvent and natural fire with which all things can be mixed, the Dragon and the devouring Lion, the solvent and the coagulant. In this substance are expressed the juice and the blood, because it is the Red Lion of which Paracelsus speaks, which is nothing else but this precious materia of which a pure substance is extracted by separating all its impurities, both by the operations that follow the trails of Nature and by various ablutions, as we will show in the Great Triad of Paracelsus

Therefore, in order to carry out this Work, you must first of all separate the Regulus, add as little saltpeter as possible, melt this Regulus, pulverize it and wash it as often with its water that no blackness is left, so that, when you pound it again, it stays heavy, quite white and flawless like silver, because when it is in this state it can be amalgamated with the perfect bodies.

Take 1 part of this Regulus, 2 parts of gold gone through antimony in the normal manner, 4 parts of sublimated Mercury, prepared as it is shown in the chapter on Mercury. It must be so well prepared and so well purified of its salts and all its arsenical spirits, that you could give some of it orally without any inconvenience. The gold must be mixed with the melted Regulus, as in this way it will be calcined by a philosophical calcination. Add also the sublimated Mercury. Make one single body of these three well purified and cleansed substances, a triad or chemical concordance. By sublimation you will turn these three into one and the same substance, because, as Arnold of Villanova says: ...which is done by repeated sublimations, in which consists the whole secret of the ancients; but the moderns, like Paracelsus, add to it the astronomical concordance of the wine. Thus is made a great Elixir and a universal medicine for the health of human bodies.

Essence of Antimony

It must be calcined by itself, in an earthenware pot over the fire, always stirring it with an iron spatula and taking care that it does not melt before it turns greyish-white. If it were to curdle -- which must be prevented as much as possible -- it has to be powdered again and immediately calcined, as in this way the arsenical and poisonous part of the antimony will vanish. Take this calx of antimony, powder it subtly and extract its salt with very strong vinegar. When your menstruum takes on a hyacinth color, pour it off by inclination and add fresh one, and continue doing this till it is no more colored. All these tinctures must be put in an alembic on an ash-fire till they are evaporated to dryness. Regarding the materia or the salt which is left over after the extraction of the vinegar, wash it with distilled water to soften your materia as much as possible. If it is put together with hardboiled whites of egg,

it will immediately be converted into an oil suitable for the cure of all rodent and cankerous ulcers.

But we must proceed further and pour some excellent spirit of wine on this materia softened by ablutions, which will become red like a ruby in the course of the digestion and distillation which you will make of it. Pour so much spirit of wine back on the materia that will not attract any more tincture. After its perfect calcination, separate the spirit of wine, and you will be left with a red powder that is wonderful in its effects. Give 7 or 8 grains of it to purify the mass of the blood, renew and restore the person, cure lepra, the poxes, scrofula, in short, the physical and spiritual (mental) diseases, epilepsies, dropsies, etc.

To go even further with the same remedy, take some of this red powder and circulate it immediately in a Pelican with a very good spirit of wine, then heat everything on a very strong fire. A quite red oil will be the result, endowed with greater virtues than the powder which has now been separated from its impurities. The oil is quite spiritual, quite positive, and quite active.

Another Essence of Antimony

Subtly pulverize 1 lb of antimony and incorporate it with 8 oz of saltpeter. After this, calcine it in a crucible over hot ashes, taking care that the fire does not touch it. Then pound it again with 4 oz of saltpeter, calcine it again over ashes, proceeding thus up to three times. Now that it is subtly pulverized, pound it in a glazed bowl with very hot water which you must remove by filtration. Continue in this way till it no longer comes out salty, and you will find your now white antimony. When it is dried in the sun, put it for 4 hours in a long-necked flask on slow ashes, with good spirit of wine.

Repeat this digestion and infusion 5 times, till the menstruum has attracted all the essence of antimony. Evaporate all your spirits of wine in B. M., and you will have at the bottom a powder, salt, or essence of antimony, of which only 1 grain with rose preserve will do wonders. Others take all this powder and reverberate and fix it for 24 hours to make a medicine of it, but the essence is much better because it purges without vomiting. The secret lies in the calcination on ashes without the fire touching the materia.

Antimony Precipitate

Take oil of salt, made with bole Armeniac, and digest it for a few days with some crude antimony or a Regulus of antimony, then distill with a strong fire. You will obtain a red oil which will come out in a rather large amount. If you put this oil in spring water, it will precipitate into a powder as white as that of Mercury of Life (Note: brandy is called, literally, Water of Life). If you give 6, 7, or 8 grains of it, it will purge without vomiting.

Sudorific Antimony

Take 1 lb of antimony, 2 lbs of saltpeter, mix everything well and put it gradually into a red-hot crucible. Immediately, take the materia at the bottom of the crucible, weigh it and add the same amount of saltpeter, then put it back into the crucible as before. Do this 3 times. Wash your materia very carefully several times, and a white powder will be left. Soften it and mix it with an equal amount of saltpeter. Put everything back into the red hot crucible, as before, and finally wash your materia very well and edulcorate it. Take 1 scruple of it, which you must infuse for one night in the water of holy thistle herb, and you will obtain an excellent sudorific. This powder is sufficient to make several infusions which can still

strongly affect the perspiration.

Crocus or Sulphur of Antimony Hepar Antimony

Take equal parts of antimony and saltpeter, mix them well, then gradually throw this powder into a medium red-hot crucible. Make of it Hepar or Liver of Antimony, pulverize and boil it in water till the latter turns red. Run it through brown paper or filter it other wise, then pour either simple or distilled vinegar into it, and suddenly the tincture or the red sulphur will separate and precipitate to the bottom. The thus prepared and dry sulphur can serve as a great remedy for purifying the mass of the blood, and even as an excellent purgative. Mr Wolfius, physician in ordinary to His Serene Highness Prince Maurice, Landgrave of Hessen, made an interesting experiment with it in connection with a young girl who had galls (skin sores) on her legs, so ugly and trying that he wondered if it was not some sort of lepra. By rubbing them with Sulphur and Mercury, the galls disappeared but came back later. To achieve a complete recovery, he made her take some of this crocus of antimony for one month, mixed with a diuretic extract, only in the proportion of 6 or 7 grains to 1 dram of diuretic, which she took in the morning. Sometimes she had 2 or 3 bowel movements, without any disturbance or vomiting -- due to the aforesaid mixture. After taking this remedy for one month, she was completely cured. This experience has made him praise all remedies made of antimony more than those made of Mercury.

Mixed Tincture of Antimony

Take antimony glass, pulverize it, and mix 2 oz of it with 1 oz of candied sugar, add to it some excellent spirit of wine, set it on fire, and stir it with a spoon till it is completely extinguished. Separate what is most clear by inclination, pour some more spirit of wine on it, light it, and let it go out. Do this several times, always separating the clear materia. If you give one spoonful of the resulting liquid, which is an oil of the sugar impregnated with the tincture of antimony, you will cause two bowel movements without vomiting, and two spoonfuls will cause four.

To prepare it in another way, the tincture of antimony is first extracted with spirit of wine. Then add to it as much sugar as is necessary, and set fire to it to turn it into oil, which will be better impregnated in this way.

Flowers of Antimony

Make the flowers of antimony in the same way as you make those of tin and lead. An excellent purgative is made of these flowers in the amount of 6, 7, or 8 grains infused in wine, or in substance, without any vomiting. But you must distill acid spirit of vitriol together with its phlegma over these flowers, several times - then dry everything.

Regulus of Antimony

To make a Regulus, Hermes puts 4 oz of horseshoe nails in a crucible. When they are red-hot, he adds 8 oz of antimony and some saltpeter, melts everything without tartar. He lets it cool, then finds the core of the Regulus, melts it still more, adding this time about 1 oz of saltpeter. He lets it cool again, then melts it again twice by itself, and extracts 4 or 5 oz of this Regulus, which has the impression of Mars, which is excellent. Read about the properties of this Regulus in the chapter on iron. But to make a still more excellent remedy of it, take 4 oz of this Regulus prepared as above, melt it and add to it 1 oz of the Sun. Calcine everything, pulverize it and put it in a flask, pouring enough of an excellent spirit of

salt upon it to float over it by 3 or 4 fingers' breadth. In a few hours it will be tinged bright-red, due to the dissolution of the gold. When this solution is evaporated, you will be left with a powder which, without causing vomiting, is wonderfully effective in the evacuation and purgation of bodies when given either by itself in substance or as an infusion. It is given with some preserve but without separating it from its menstruum. Given in small amounts of 4 or 5 drops mixed with some liquid, it is a sovereign remedy for several deplorable diseases.

Crystals of Antimony

Take 3 oz of Regulus of antimony and 4 oz of good saltpeter of three waters, calcine them together according to the Art, at the end giving such a strong fire that your materia turns white, then pulverize it and let it reverberate for 8 or 10 days in a hermetically closed flask. Pulverize your materia on a marble slab, then put it in a flask, pouring some spirit of guaiacum on it, which should float over it by 4 fingers' breadth. Put it to digest on an ash fire, let the materia boil for 3 or 4 days, then remove your spirit of guaiacum impregnated with part of the salt of antimony. Put the rest in a damp place, and it will turn into crystals which you must separate with a pierced wooden spoon. Now evaporate one-third of your spirit, put it in a humid place, and it will turn into lapilli (small stones) which you must collect as before. When you have a good amount of these lapilli, dry them gently on the ashes to perfect dryness. It is an excellent purgative, the dose being 8 or 10 grains, without it causing any nausea or vomiting.

Salt of Antimony

Powder some antimony as finely as possible, dissolve it in its own water which is nothing but the aqua regia. Put this solution into a bowl glazed over hot ashes, where it will evaporate till your powder is quite dry. Boil it in rain water for 2 hours, then, after it has settled, empty it by inclination and put fresh water on it till it comes out very soft and clear. When your powder is dry, put it in a spotless glass vessel and calcine it on a small fire till it takes on the color of cherries. Keep it on such a fire for 1 month. Then reduce it to an impalpable powder on a marble slab, put it in a flask with vinegar which must float over it by 2 fingers' breadth, and boil it in B. M. for 1 day, adding fresh vinegar as the previous diminishes.

Now pour this vinegar into a glass retort and let it evaporate, or distill it, till a white powder is left at the bottom. Pour fresh vinegar on the latter, and when it has boiled for 2 hours, let it rest for 1 day till the vinegar becomes quite clear. Now empty it into a retort, pour fresh vinegar on the feces and proceed as above till it is well dissolved. Distill all your vinegars in B. M., and you will find your white salt at the bottom. Boil it in rain water for 2 hours, then, after the water has rested for 1 day, empty it into a retort without disturbing the feces at all and without any of them flowing into the water. Afterwards, remove the water by the bath, and you will find your perfect salt at the bottom, which is called Philosophical Salt and can serve as a noble medicine for all diseases of the human body, both internal and external ones.

Oil of Antimony

Take some salt prepared as above, put it in a long-necked glass flask hermetically sealed and very well luted, lest it break and the virtue evaporate. Then calcine it with the fire of the athanor. To begin, give it a fire whose heat is equal to that of the sun in March. Let it stand thus for 8 days, then increase the fire so that your hand can stand it during 8 more

days. When you see your materia become yellow, increase the fire by 1 degree and leave it thus for another 8 days. It will become tanned like a chestnut. Keep it in this or a slightly greater heat till it turns scarlet. Leave it thus for 8 days, and you will see its color become half black and half red. Now give it the strongest possible heat, and be not afraid of giving it too much, because your salt is fixed and fire could not harm it. After this, let it cool. To turn it into oil, pulverize it subtly and filter it through the sieve of the cordial powders.

When this powder has been made, put it into a flask with vinegar over it, dissolve it in B. M. for 4 days, then let your materia rest for 1 day. Thereafter, drain off what is most clear of the vinegar, put fresh on for the 4th time, and stir your materia 4 times a day. What is left at the bottom is useless for medicines, but take your three solutions, distill the vinegar in the retort, and you will find at the bottom a powder which you must put in a glass alembic with its receptacle, well-luted to its head in cold water, lest the spirit escape.

Give a small fire for 4 hours and keep it thus till you see the spirit rise red as blood. Now make the fire as strong as possible, and keep it thus for 1 hour. When you see that your alembic begins to be full of snow, make a good fire till it becomes as clear as before. When everything has cooled, the oil of antimony will be perfect. It is incomparable for the cure of human bodies, especially for lepra, pestilence, and all the other deplorable diseases.

Another Oil of Antimony

Powder, very subtly, 1 lb of antimony, such as it comes out of the mines. Put it in a large crucible glazed inside and saturate it with a good oil of tartar till both are well incorporated. After this, dry your mixture on a slow fire for 2 or 3 hours, then immediately soak and dry it till it has absorbed as much as its weight and you have 2 lbs of materia. Now subtly pulverize your antimony imbibed with tartar and put it in a big glass flask with some good brandy which must stand over it by 4 fingers' breadth. Now close your flask with another (flask) and lute it hermetically so that nothing can enter it, set it in a dung-hill for 4 days, and you will find that your water is of a lemon-yellow color. Pour it off by inclination, and immediately replace it by fresh water. Proceed in this way till it is no longer colored. This done, distill by the bath all the strained materia that you have kept, and put the water back which must distill up to 7 times over your feces. The last time, the oil will be quite red, thick, and very sweet. It cures all cancers, neoplasias, and when circulated with good brandy, is an admirable remedy for all internal diseases of the human body.

Mercury of Antimony

Extract the Regulus of antimony, then turn it into Mercury with resuscitating salts by means of ordinary digestions and sublimations. To this end, reduce the Regulus or the cinnabar of antimony to a very fine powder, then mix it with as much Hungarian vitriol and some salt in order to sublimate it according to the Art. You will obtain a beautiful Flying Eagle in the form of sublimated Mercury which you can revive into liquid Mercury, just as the common sublimate is revived. However, the cinnabar of antimony cannot easily be converted into liquid Mercury without sublimating it. This is done by mixing it with its weight of half-calcined tartar, or quicklime, or half-burnt bread crusts, and some sal ammoniac. For the rest, follow the rules of the Art, distilling by the retort with fire and in the same way as you make the antimonial cinnabar. Thus you will extract a double Mercury which will flow in the receptacle filled with cold water, and you will have a most excellent Eagle which can truly be called the Philosophical Mercury.

Chapter X

Vitriol

The Magistry of Vitriol ~ Separation & Conjunction of the Elements of Vitriol for a Universal Medicine ~ Extraction of Vitriol from all Metals ~ Extraction of the Sulphur of Vitriol ~ Crocus Martis of Vitriol ~ An Excellent Oil of Vitriol ~ Oil of Vitriol and Salt Together ~ Sweet Oil of Vitriol ~ Another Sweet Oil of Vitriol.

The Magistry of Vitriol

Take vitriol, distill the phlegma, spirit, and oil from it by the retort. After that separate the oil from the phlegma and the spirit by distillation, which do according to the Art. Better still, add to 3 or 4 lbs of vitriol 1/2 lb or more of powdered coral and 5 or 6 oz of seed pearls. From the powdered colcothar, which contains the calx of the coral and the pearls, extract all the salts with common water distilled according to the Art. This salt is again several times dissolved and coagulated with the phlegma of the vitriol, till it becomes white and transparent as snow. Put the spirit and the oil on this salt in a hermetically closed flask, to digest and circulate in a hot B. M. for several days. In the same bath, or on ashes, distill all the liquid which will leave all the spirits with its own salt, and it will come out of it almost tasteless. Keep it nevertheless, to give 1 spoonful of it to feverish patients and to use it for red spots on the face, and many other troubles.

Now reduce the magistry left dry and as a salt at the bottom, and keep it as a very precious remedy for all obstructions, general debilities, dropsies, hypochondriac melancholies, and an infinite number of other disorders. It is given by itself with the proper liquids.

To make a greater magistry of it, however, distill the tartar crystals in our way. When the fetid oil is separated from them and the liquid is purified by redistilling it with the colcothar and the coral, you will extract all the salt from the feces according to the Art. Add it to the liquid, digest and circulate this liquid in the bath, and then distill it. It will leave a magistry in the form of salt, which does wonders for all obstructions and general debilities. But if it is mixed, while liquid, with the liquid of the vitriol impregnated with its own salt, and everything is digested and circulated together, it will become the magistry of magisteries.

Seaparation and Conjunciton of the Elements of Vitriol for a Universal Medicine

Take Hungarian vitriol, as much as you like. Dissolve it in common water in a warm spot, filter it through paper and coagulate what you have filtered. Repeat this 3 times, then calcine and coagulate the vitriol between the yellow and red color, then dissolve it in vinegar, filter and coagulate it 3 times, as you did with the water, or till it leaves no more feces. Now coagulate it in the bath, and immediately calcine it to a golden color. In a glass retort distill the spirit with a sand-fire. Pulverize the Death's Head, pour its own spirit back on it, and by distilling it with an open fire, you will get water and oil. Repeat this by cohobating its spirit 3 times. Always pulverize the materia and put its spirit back on it. Thereafter, extract the salt from the feces with vinegar, filter, coagulate the filtered salt and dissolve it immediately. Filter and coagulate 3 times, and when the Elements have been thus separated, unite them in this way:

Take 3 parts of spirit, 2 parts of oil, and 1 of salt. Put all three in a glass mortar to digest in the athanor for 30 days. The result will be a Stone, of which 1 grain only will be enough for

spasms, paralyses, palpitations, disorders of the womb, as also for epilepsy and all hopeless diseases of the human body.

Extraction of Vitriol from all Metals

Vitriol can be extracted from all metallic bodies calcined by sulphur with distilled rain or snow water, because by calcination these bodies are impregnated with the vitriolic spirit of the sulphur, which is the only means of extracting the vitriol.

Others distill the phlegma, the spirit, and the oil with good vitriol, then they take 3 oz of these three combined together, which they mix with 3 lbs of distilled water. Into that they put the calcined metal from which they wish to extract the vitriol, till this liquid has attracted it. When the liquid can attract no more, they separate two-thirds of it by distillation. When cold, the vitriol is coagulated, and they finally separate it several times.

But to do better, more water would have to be consumed, till it becomes thick in the end, which happens variously according to the state of the vitriol. From 1 lb of copper, more than 1-1/2 lbs of vitriol are extracted, all the more so as the water that is added coagulates and increases the weight. Very precious oils for health are extracted from these metallic vitriols.

Others reduce all metals to vitriol, after calcining each in its proper way. Then they imbibe them with spirit or oil of vitriol, which has the peculiar quality of turning calcined bodies into its own nature solely by imbibitions and digestions. Beautiful and great operations can be made with it for health.

Extraction of the Sulphur of Vitriol

Take vitriol, the greenest and finest of Hungary. Crush it and expose it to the summer sun in bowls, stirring it twice or 3 times a day. When it has been bleached by the rays of the sun, dissolve it in water, and you will separate from it an ochre, or rather a sulphur, which stays at the bottom. Coagulate the rest in vitriol and set it again in the same sun to blanch. Wash it in several waters, and your sulphur will separate. Continue this procedure till almost all your vitriol has turned into sulphur and settled at the bottom. Pain-killers can be made with this sulphur.

Crocus of Martis of Vitriol

You have only to rubefy the vitriol in all its parts and to pour on it spring water, then to mix this materia with a stick in an earthenware vessel. Leave it there for 3 or 4 hours till the water is clear. Pour it off and repeat this procedure till the water is sweet. At the bottom you will find a purplish powder, which is the Crocus Martis. Some call it ochre, but it is the true Philosophical Crocus Martis.

An Excellent Oil of Vitriol

Take vitriol and distill it in the ordinary way to extract its phlegma, spirit, and oil. Extract all the white salt from the colcothar with hot water. Upon this salt (purified with its phlegma, if you wish) put the phlegma, spirit, and oil back, then set everything to digest in B. M. for several days. Drive the pure away with the impure, and after a fairly long digestion, distill the moisture. All the virtues, both of the oil and of the spirit, will combine and mix with the salt, of which give a few grains in bouillon or in wine or in any other suitable liquid, for all

obstructions and for several other diseases.

Oil of Vitriol and Salt Together

If you cannot find any good glass vessels that can stand the fire, the oil of vitriol and salt can be made better and more easily by drying the vitriol to a yellow color, and the salt to decrepitation, and by putting 2 parts of subtly pulverized vitriol together with 1 part of salt and 2 of coarsely crushed bole. Process them with a strong fire, and the salt will help the vitriol go over, and you will obtain more liquid suitable for extracting the sulphur from marcasites than you would get with ordinary aqua regia. To separate both spirits, put everything in a boiling bath. The oil of the salt will come out first, of an acid taste and such as if you had distilled it alone. The oil of vitriol, slightly acid, will stay heavier in its full strength. It is suitable for what it is ordinarily used. The oil of vitriol can be dephlegmatized and purified so as to dissolve Luna. I would use this water to precipitate Mercury, as it is neither as corrosive nor as harmful as others.

Sweet Oil of Vitriol

You can extract the oil of vitriol if you take 1 lb of phlegma to 12 oz of colcothar, put everything in a hermetically closed flask, buried between two pots filled with ashes, lute, and place it in an athanor to digest slowly for 8 days. At the end of this time, your materia is purified and digested, so that it turns into a kind of mudpie. Now it has to be put into a glass lute and distilled with a reverberation fire. From the beginning, 1 or 2 oz of sweet oil will be distilled for every pound of colcothar. It is a sovereign remedy for fevers, dropsies, and even for painless inflammations, polyps, and carbuncles. If you change receptacles and increase the fire, you will distill a very pungent and violent oil, in the quantity of 3 to 4 oz per pound. It is suitable for precipitating Mercury, taking 1/2 lb of Mercury to 1 lb of oil and, after it is well dissolved in water, pouring on it 4 oz of salt extracted from the colcothar with common spring water. Thereafter, boil the water fast in the alembic, and in this way the acid sulphur of the oil of vitriol will rise. If you renew the water several times and distill them, you will separate all their acidity.

Another Sweet Oil of Vitriol

The oil of vitriol can also be made as sweet as honey and capable of perfectly dissolving the Sun, in the following way:

Take as much vitriol as you like. Add to it 1/4 of its weight of Mars filings, mix everything according to the Art. Put it for 1 hour on an ash-fire, and the oil will become sweet. Thereafter, filter this oil through a cloth, and in this way you will obtain an excellent oil for dissolving gold.

Others dissolve in oil of vitriol as much salt of tartar as it will dissolve, and immediately redistill the oil over it, then repeat this dissolution and redistillation till it can dissolve gold leaf or calcined gold.

For calculi, redistill the oil of vitriol over crystal. To stop bleeding, distill the oil of vitriol over the Crocus Martis. As a tonic, distill the oil of vitriol, over corals and pearls.

There are some who add 1 lb or 1-1/2 lbs of corals to 2 or 3 lbs of vitriol and distill everything together, for which corals are wonderful.

Chapter XI

Sulphur

Sovereign Balsam of Sulphur for all Lung Diseases ~ Flowers of Sulphur ~ Mortification of Sulphur ~ Tincture of Red Sulphur ~ Oil of Red Sulphur for the Pest ~ Another Oil of Red Sulphur

Sovereign Balsam of Sulphur for all Lung Diseases

Take 1 oz of flowers of sulphur, or common sulphur, 3 oz of oil of tartar, put everything together in a big flask on an ash-fire, or bring it close to the fire to boil the oil till all the sulphur is dissolved. This is achieved without the addition of hot water, provided the oil of tartar is not used up too much. When the sulphur is well dissolved in the oil, remove it from the fire and let it cool. Away from the fire, pour white vinegar on it little by little, because of the bubbling that will occur together with very evil-smelling fumes. Then let everything settle and a curd will form at the bottom. Remove the vinegar by inclination, and pour so much hot water on the curd that all the spirit of vinegar comes out. You will be left with a sweet curd. With the tip of three fingers put as much of it as you like in some egg, and you will see wonders for asthma, pulmonary consumption, and ulcers of the lungs.

Flowers of Sulphur

Take sulphur, alum, and saltpeter, 1 lb each. Put everything in a very strong glass alembic with its head, give fire by degrees in an athanor, and a water will come out with which you can precipitate Mercury. When the flowers begin to rise, put on a blind alembic and increase the fire, and your flowers will rise. From 1 lb you will always get 12 oz or more.

Mortification of Sulphur

It has to be pulverized and mixed in a retort with good brandy for 6 hours, till it is dissolved over hot ashes. Then, after drawing the water off by distillation, pour more water back on it, and do this up to 3 times, so that your materia stays black. Then wash it as often with hot water in a glazed bowl till -- it comes out sweet and quite clear. Now, after well drying your materia on hot ashes, put it in a well-luted crucible and keep it in a reverberation flame fire for 4 hours. When it is cold, you will find that it is white. Put it back into another big crucible to reverberate it still more, and you will find it yellow. When you have immediately pulverized and reverberated it in another crucible for 4 hours, you will find it red like cinnabar, and fixed. It is wonderful for health, according to Paracelsus, who prepared it as above. Others extract the tincture with brandy by the same process used to extract the tincture of antimony.

Tincture of Red Sulphur

Take sulphur and dissolve it in oil of turpentine. To this solution add some zwieback, always stirring till the materia becomes dry and like powder. Put this powder in a flask, our good spirit of wine on it, which will attract its red tincture, leaving the oily part at the bottom with the zwieback.

Oil of Red Sulphur for the Pest

Put 2 oz of spirit of turpentine in a vessel on hot sand and dissolve there, at different

times, 9 drams of flowers of sulphur. You will be left with a mass as black as pitch. Pour some good spirit of wine on this mass, then put it on an ash-fire, and in 4 hours you will extract the red tincture. Put some fresh spirit of wine on it, so much that it no longer attracts the redness. Distill all your spirits on the sand in an alembic, and a very red oil will distill. It is chiefly used for pestilence, and it operates through perspiration.

Another Oil of Red Sulphur

Make a vessel of glass or Beauvais earth in the form of a lute. To begin, give a very small fire to melt the sulphur which you have put in it in small pieces, mixed with as much pumice stone, which is a wonderful means for activating all things. It can neither give the materia its quality nor impress it on it. Note that later you must give a strong fire (because this is how sulphur, resins, and all oily and sulphurous gums distill). About 4 oz will come out of 1 lb, sometimes a little less. This oil dissolves both Luna and that which is extracted by the bell jar.

Chapter XII

Arsenic

Preparation of Arsenic ~ Sublimation of Arsenic

Preparation of Arsenic

Arsenic resembles Mercury, both in its peculiar quality of whitening and in the occult virtues of its nature. That is why Paracelsus repeats in his *Librum de Aurora* what he said about Mercury and all its preparations, and takes in its place well prepared arsenic, purified of all its impurities. To purify and prepare it as the Philosophers do, take equal parts of crystalline arsenic and good vulgar sandarac, powder them and put them in a retort with some common water. Give distillation fire till the water has gone over and taken with it all the blackness and impurities of the arsenic, and everything that can sublimate has risen. Then, when you open your retort, you will find that the sublimate is nothing but fake white flour, which is all the impurity of the arsenic. At the bottom you will find all the good substance in the form of a beautiful crystalline Regulus. Having been prepared in this way, it can sublimate with antimony and vitriol instead of sublimated Mercury, and thus make the Triad of Paracelsus.

Arsenic can be prepared in several ways, for some separate the floury substance by sublimating it with Mars or soap. Others use other means, as we have indicated in our *Book on the Spagyric Preparation of medicaments*.

Sublimation of Arsenic

Take very good arsenic and fix it by calcining it with saltpeter according to the Art. Take 6 oz of this calcined arsenic with, as much good sublimate, and 4 oz of common salt, prepared or decrepitated. Put everything in a sublimation furnace or in a proper flask in an ash-fire, and when the moisture has completely vanished, stopper it with cotton, continuing and increasing the sublimation fire till the sublimate has completely risen into the neck of the vessel. It will happen in 12 hours if you manage the fire correctly. Finally, expose the phial or the flask to the air, so that it breaks of its own and you can then separate your materia all the better. Take this sublimate and resublimite it another 3 or 4 times with fresh materia. This is to give it a coagulative impression and the white tincture of arsenic, which is a great secret. When this sublimate has been prepared in this way, mix it with half the powdered tartar, adding some vinegar and always proceeding as is done in the reunification of cinnabar. Thus you will prepare a Mercury with this sublimate which, when clean and purified, is preferable to the vulgar in all kinds of chemical operations.

Chapter XIII

Cinnabar

Mineral Cinnabar ~ Extraction of Mercury from Common Cinnabar ~ Cinnabar of Antimony

Mineral Cinnabar

Of all the cinnabars, the mineral is always the best, and we find a very excellent one of this kind near Marburg in Germany, where there is a mine of quite red cinnabar, the most beautiful in the world. A liquid Mercury is extracted from it which gilds silver, and this Mercury is easily extracted and in an adequate quantity. If you add to 1 lb of this pulverized cinnabar just a little quicksilver, you will extract at least 1 /2 lb of liquid Mercury. It is of a nobler nature than the vulgar, because it subtilizes the metals so very much that if it is amalgamated with gold, the goldsmiths cannot use it to gild because the gold is softened too much by it.

Extraction of Mercury from Common Cinnabar

Take common cinnabar, as much as you like, and after turning it into powder, mix it with half of its weight of pulverized tartar. Pound it very strongly, then put everything in a big retort with very sharp vinegar, enough to stand above the materia by 3 or 4 fingers' breadth. When the vinegar has been removed by a slow distillation, take it from the receptacle and half fill the latter with common water. Add it to the retort which has previously been put on the furnace and buried in sand. Make a good fire underneath, and toward the end also above, and you will see your liquid Mercury distill in a large quantity into the water of your receptacle. Thereafter, separate it from the water, and after you have well dried its moisture off, keep it to use it for making your precipitate Mercuries and other things.

Note that crushed quicklime can be used instead of tartar to revivify the cinnabar into liquid Mercury, just as sublimated Mercury, if it is mixed with it in the same quantity as the tartar. The thus prepared Mercuries are of quite another nature than vulgar mercury which, because of its coldness and crudeness, in no way agrees with hot and boiled things, such as are the perfect metals, the Sun and the Moon.

Cinnabar of Antimony

Take equal parts of crude antimony and sublimated Mercury, mix them well and put them on a sand-fire in a retort adapted and luted with its receptacle. Extract from it, by degrees, a gum which is the butter of antimony, and when the gum has stopped distilling, make a fire both above and underneath it, and your materia will all sublime at the sides as well as at the neck of the retort, as beautiful cinnabar of antimony. In this way you will make a beautiful cinnabar of antimony.

Chapter XIV

Precious Stones

**Essence of Corals and Pearls ~ Dissolution of Pearls with the Vinegar of Saturn ~
Magistry of Pearls and Corals ~ Essence of Medicinal Stones ~ Essence of
Hematite ~ Essence of Hyacinth**

Essence of Corals and Pearls

Corals are calcined with saltpeter, then their essence can be extracted with brandy. The latter must not touch the saltpeter, but should it do so, I do not think that it could do any harm in view of the excellent remedy that is obtained from saltpeter reduced to glass with sulphur. Now, to carry out the calcination of corals, they must first be pulverized, then mixed with three times as much saltpeter, and set on fire till the calcination is perfect. You could do the same with pearls, but it is better to dissolve those with the acid solvent of dephlegmatized sulphur because, although it stays mingled with the essence, it can only be very useful for it.

Dissolution of Pearls with the Vinegar of Saturn

Distill the vinegar saturated with the sweet salt of Saturn, and dissolve the pearls in it. Then distill the vinegar over the pearls, and when it has gone over, change receptacles and give a slow fire. First you will see a white and very ethereal spirit come out. After that, increase the fire somewhat, and you will obtain a reddish liquid. Take all these liquids and put them in a small retort on a pierced plate, so that it can receive the hot steam of a bath. The white and ethereal spirits can thereby separate from the others when the receptacle is changed, and a red, oily, and sulphurous liquid will be left at the bottom. If then you pour a few drops of the white spirit of Saturn on the thus dissolved, filtered, and purified pearls, you will see how the body of your dissolved pearls coagulates with the menstruum into a very transparent substance, almost like oriental pearls, quite suitable for the embellishment of women and the strengthening of all the noble parts of the human body.

When the fiery oil with all its spirit has been extracted from litharge or minium, it must be rectified according to the Art. First distill the pure and true fiery mercurial spirit, then a reddish and oily water, and finally the salt in the form of a corrosive vinegar, which is the phlegma with which the pearls are dissolved. Because of the added mercurial spirit, they coagulate with their acid phlegma. The same spirit, which has the coagulative virtue, in it and brought it close to a lighted candle, would ignite without your finger feeling it. On the contrary, you would feel your finger colder than warmer, although it would be completely inflamed.

Magistry of Pearls and Corals

The magistry of pearls and corals is made with vinegar and spirit of tartar. After you have completely dissolved both in vinegar and have added a few drops of oil of tartar, that is, salt of tartar dissolved in spring water by putting 4 oz of salt in 2 lbs of water, thus giving it a strong taste to make it more penetrating (otherwise the essences would go to the bottom and turn yellow there), separate your pearls from your menstruum, then sweeten them with several ablutions, and you can make good use of them in different ways in medicine.

If the magistry of pearls is mixed with some water of euphrasy (eye bright) in the form of

a liniment, it removes the spots that cover the pupil of the eyes, provided they are not too deep-seated and are not covered by a membrane.

Essence of Medicinal Stones

The essence of eggshells, shells, pebbles, sponges, and stones called lynceus and judaic stones is extracted in the same way as we have just taught. Such essences have a wonderful power for dissolving and driving calculi out of the bladder. But the essences of the Judaic stone and the lynceus are incomparably more suitable than the others, because if you give only 2 grains of them with white wine or some suitable water, you will give a diuretic which causes a patient to urinate almost to urinate blood.

Instead of vinegar, I think one could take the acid spirit of vitriol or sulphur, and if they were processed as above with the tincture of the salt of the Judaic stone, an equally powerful diuretic could be made of them for dissolving calculi, provided injections into the bladder were made with it, using a syringe and the water of the whites of egg or, after dissolving the said stones in vinegar, they were dissolved once again in hardened whites of egg

Essence of Hematite

The essence of haematite (iron ore) can easily be extracted with pumice stone, as we have said in several places, or with vinegar prepared with roses. Of this vinegar impregnated with this stone, one can make a syrup with the juice of red-currants or plantains, or a kind of a specific and very suitable potion for those who urinate blood. If you do not find any haematite, take corals or Crocus Martis, and prepare it just like the haematite.

Essence of Hyacinth

Take the purest hyacinths (the gem) that you can find, powder them subtly, calcine them 3 times with flowers of sulphur, then extract their essence or tincture with the spirit of salt by means of a digestion in the bath or the Horse's Belly. This tincture is wonderful for nervous diseases, if an adequate dose is given every two weeks. The experience of it has been made with a patient who was completely cured, being twice or three times purged with this remedy, because it has the property of purging and fortifying at the same time. You can extract the essence from other stones in the same way.

Chapter XV

Crystal

Oil of Crystal for Calculi

Pulverize the crystal and heat it several times red-hot in a crucible, then slake it in vinegar. Repeat this calcination and slaking several times, the more the better. It would even be good to reverberate it a little longer in a furnace and thereafter to steep the red calx several times in vinegar. Now pour fresh vinegar on the thus calcined crystal, 4 fingers' breadth above it, to extract the salt. Then separate the vinegar from it, and the salt will be left at the bottom, the color of leeks. Put this salt on a marble slab, to be dissolved in a damp spot. Give a few drops of this liquid for calculi in a suitable vehicle.

Venetian glass slaked several times in spirit of vinegar and well powdered has the same property as crystal, even more so for the hardening of calculi, especially as it also contains alkaline salt.

Chapter XVI

Talc

Preparation of Talc for Reducing it to Oil ~ Another Oil of Talc ~ Another Excellent Oil of Talc

Preparation of Talc for Reducing it to Oil

Take powdered talc, tartar, and saltpeter, in equal amounts, and calcine them in a strong fusion fire till your substance is white. Then remove the salts, and the talc will be left over calcined and reduced to a white powder. Finally, extract the salt from it with very good vinegar on a digestion fire. Now put these vinegars saturated with the salt of your talc into an alembic to be distilled to dryness. Put the remaining substance to resolve in a damp place, and in this way you will obtain oil of talc -- if it is true what they say that the vinegar attracts the salt of the talc as well as that of other minerals. As far as I am concerned, I would distill it to half or two-thirds and let small pieces of ice form in the cold, and the resolution would be done sooner.

Another Oil of Talc

Pulverize talc or crush it as much as you can, put it in an earthenware pot which must be neither cooked nor glazed. Lute it exactly, and put it in a reverberation furnace for 8 hours to calcine completely. Now put it in a small bag of new linen, tie it well and crumple it a long time between your hands, so that the materia can easily pass through the sieve of the cordial powders. When it has turned into a powder as subtle as flour, put it in a glass retort and bury it in the earth in a cellar, with its beak turned upward and covered with parchment. Leave it thus for 20 days, without touching it. During this time your talc will be reduced to a paste.

When this is done, put your retort on the furnace in an earthenware bowl, over 2 fingers' breadth of sand, which must cover it all around to the top. Now add the receptacle and give it a small fire, gradually increasing it till a white liquid comes out, then a red, and finally a tan-colored. Thus you will see various colors and different and viscous substances come out of one and the same materia. The first, which is completely medicinal, is called Earth by the alchemists because of its moisture, and the second, Fire because of its subtlety. Thereafter, pile your remaining feces and boil them in a boiler or a pot with well water. Filter it and keep it apart in a well-closed phial, just as the other oils.

This last water blanches the whole body, cures the swellings of the legs and scabies, softens and whitens the hands and cleans them of all spots if they are washed in it several times. But this liquid not only removes spots but also warts, scars, and other marks, it whitens the teeth and removes the wrinkles of the face forever. If you give 2 drops of it to drink in wine or bouillon, it drives away bad breath due to putrefaction. In addition, it fortifies the body, arouses the appetite, and corrects all the defects of the stomach.

Another Excellent Oil of Talc

Take 4 lbs of good sublimate, specially prepared with 4 lbs of Roman vitriol, 2 lbs of prepared common salt, and 2 lbs of Mercury of cinnabar which has previously been mortified in salt and vinegar for 5 or 6 days. Filter this through a linen and squeeze it out

little by little into your vitriol and salt materia which you have previously melted on a medium coal-fire and half-dried. Now grind everything till it is reduced to powder and the Mercury can no longer be seen. Then put your materia on a marble slab and pound it till everything has turned into an impalpable powder. Put it between two glazed earthenware bowls and sublimate it. Thereafter, take this sublimate, some colcothar, Venetian glass, and prepared common salt. Put everything back to be sublimated as before, and the sublimate must again be resublimated with as much talc as it weighs, and as much salt prepared 6 times. Always mix the feces under the sublimated substances, each time pounding them together and putting one finger's breadth of fresh prepared salt over them. In this way you will make a beautiful, crystalline sublimate, well stripped of its poison, which is suitable both for health and the beauty of the face.

Regarding the left-over feces, dissolve them in water to separate the salt, and you will have a perfectly beautiful and philosophically calcined talc which can be dissolved in this state and converted into oil with spirit of wine. It is wonderful for improving a person's looks.

So take 1 lb of this sublimate, 2 lbs of very fine crystalline salt of tartar made by several dissolutions, additions, and distillations with brandy, grind and mix everything well together, then put it to dissolve in the cellar on a glass plate. After that, dephlegmatize it in the bath, and finally distill it on ashes. All your Mercury will turn into a precious and transparent water, while your salt of tartar will stay in the retort and be much better than before for identical works. Even by itself this oil will give a lustrous surface to yellow pearls. If mixed with the proper waters, it is one of the beautiful decorations of Nature.

But to prepare of it the true and sovereign oil of talc, take the remaining calcined talc and saturate it on a marble slab or in a glass vessel with double its weight of your oil, put everything back in the bath to digest for 8 days, then pass it through the retort, and part of the talc mixed with the oil of Mercury will go into the receptacle. At the bottom the talc will be left in the form of Lumen perlarum (Light of pearls, or pearly light.), which dissolves of itself in all kinds of liquids. It is the true and admirable oil of talc, which whitens wonderfully, nourishes the complexion, and preserves one's beauty. In addition, it removes all spots and blemishes from the skin, rids the face of red blotches even if they are natural, and immediately blanches a scarlet complexion.

Chapter XVII

Special Secrets

The Author's Anti-Podagral Water ~ The True Laudanum or Nephenthe of the Author ~ The Author's Elixir or Mercury of Life (Mercury Brandy) ~ The Author's Panacea ~ The Great Pacacea or the Polychrest Anodyne of Montanus.

The Author's Anti-Podagral Water

The basis of this remedy is a water composed of 8 quarts of river water, in which are extinguished (slaked) 16 times 4 small steel balls, each weighing 1 lb, and 1 ball of copper weighing 1/2 lb. Thereafter, infuse into 2 quarts of this water 112 oz of antimony glass for 24 hours. In the other 6 quarts dissolve 2 oz of precipitated Mercury. When these two waters have been thus prepared, mix them in a flask to be used as we will explain below.

Prepare precipitated Mercury in the ordinary way, but to 4 oz of Mercury and as much aquafortis add 1/2 oz of pulverized sulphur, dissolved in water before adding the Mercury. After this, evaporate the aquafortis to dryness, and you will obtain a precipitated Mercury as white as snow.

There are others, such as Rulandus, who prepare a remedy for gout with a decoction made with leaves of dwarf elders (bloodwort), the inner bark of elders, flowers of chamomile and melilot (sweet clover), and the right amount of water to which iron nails have conveyed a certain proportion of rust, or with old farrier's water, or water in which you have several times slaked red-hot copper. Thereafter, they add to each pound of this decoction 1/2 scruple of sublimated Mercury. They make this water more or less tart, in proportion to the dissolved copper or sublimated Mercury which they add. The physician must adjust the dose according to the condition of the disorder and the state of the patient.

For the same disorder others use aquafortis in which silver has been separated by a decoction of melilot, to which they add some sublimated Mercury. .

There are others who prepare a specific remedy for this disorder with the phlegma and the spirit extracted from vitriol, and chiefly from the acidity of sea salt, which they apply with warm bandages on the painful part.

Others successfully use the water into which they have several times thrown lead, copper, gold, and silver, after they had melted them. Finally, they infuse and macerate in B. M. litharge, antimony, minium, and marcasites of gold and silver.

Still others prepare a remedy which they consider remarkable for pains that cannot be controlled by anodynes (pain-killers) and paregorics (tinctures of opium used especially to relieve pain). They make it with common water in which they macerate quicklime for 10 or 12 days, then boil in it flowers of white buds of elders, add some colcothar, or feces of aqua fortis. They use this compound in various ways, according to the nature of the disorder.

Others add to the recipe of Ruland's calcined quicksilver or quicksilver reduced to salt with a sufficient quantity of aquafortis. When Mercury is thus prepared, it is like a ferret and penetrates to the roots of the disorder to resolve there the tartars, the salts, and the

gypseous substances at the joints, which Cause such great pains, because it checks and tempers the great acrimony and stops the flow of fresh substances which normally fall on these parts, so that it can rightly be called the specific remedy for arthritic pains and the great dissipater of the gums that accompany them. Not only does it remedy the pains of gout but also those of smallpox and nodes, provided it is only applied externally and is very well and correctly prepared, and not at all crude, such as apothecaries are used to prepare in their ointments, plasters, and poultices. One can also distill the waters in which the Mercuries have been calcined and dissolved, and use these waters saturated with their essence as a very powerful remedy.

It is, therefore, not without reason that some metallic or mineral substance is added to all anti-podagral waters, all the more so as they all contain some mercurial substance. The latter is the true refrigerant which drives away the inflammations and the acrimony of the substances held in the joints. And this is not done as do the oxycrats, the plantain juices, and the ordinary narcotics which stop the pores, clog the coarse humors and the hardened gums, and consequently aggravate the disorder instead of alleviating it. Quite to the contrary, because of the mercurial salts which they impart to the waters where they are infused, they temper the acrimony of the fluid substances, dissipate, attenuate, resolve and consume the gypseous and gummatous ones, and simultaneously remove the co-existing cause of the disorder which brings about the pain. Consequently, they cure gout totally and radically, together with all its pain.

The way to use this anti-podagral water is to soak a cloth in it in the form of a sling. Tie it above the sick spot, and it will drive the trouble downward. Gradually lower the bandage to follow the ailment till it has completely disappeared.

The True Laudanum or Nephenthe of the Author

The preparation of this remedy requires as its base the narcotic of vitriol and the Moon. To prepare such a remedy, one has therefore to take 4 oz of well rubefied vitriol and the weight of 10 ecus [old French coin -- HWN] in calcined Luna. Mix them together and put them in a glass retort in a violent ash-fire, after previously pouring very good distilled vinegar over them (four liters). Distill this vinegar 7 or 8 times over your materia, and it will be left viscous and sticky at the bottom. Note that for such distillations it is necessary to have a big receptacle of which the neck opening and the beak of the retort must fit into each other up to the knob, so that nothing can enter or get out. In addition, the joints must be luted and the head of the receptacle must be cooled with a wet cloth. When these distillations are finished, pour the last one over your materia. Then remove them all pure and clear, put them in an alembic on a very gentle ash-fire to separate the vinegar. The sticky substance that stays at the bottom is the true narcotic and the true base of which we have spoken.

Aside from this, prepare some oil of gold and silver, that is, that of the Sun with oil of juniper, and that of the Moon with oil of sage.

Moreover, prepare a large amount of tincture of coral, and thus you will have the foundation and base which you require for this great and admirable secret.

By several sprinklings and exsiccations imbibe the sweet sulphur of vitriol with at least its weight of the tincture of coral, which is vitriolic and in which you have previously dissolved some gold-leaf. When 1 oz of this sulphur has absorbed 1 /2 oz of this tincture impregnated with gold, add 1/2 oz of the magistery of pearls, made in our way and as we have described it in our Panacea of the oil of the Sun and the Moon. Make, as said above,

1 1/2 drams. Add to this mixture, which will become blacker and thicker than pitch, the essences of balsam, theriac, and mithridate, confections of alkermes, and hyacinth, and sandalwood, of each 1/2 drams; essences of carabus and camphor, of each 1 scruple; real bezoar and bezoardic earth, prepared deer horn, unicorn (!!!) and sigillated earth, of each 1 scruple; essence of saffron, 2 drams; oils of cinnamon, nutmeg, mace, cloves, pepper, of each 12 drops; oils of anise, sweet fennel and lemon peel, of each 20 drops; liquid sulphur, distilled over pasque-flower and strengthened with oil of sage, 2 scruples; essences of amber and musk, of each 1/2 scruple (note that for women neither musk nor amber must be added). Pour over everything 1 oz of the water which comes out first from the cores of the deer horn, and circulate it in a hermetically closed vessel for 30 days, the better make the conjunctions. You will obtain the best Laudanum in the world, of which the dose of 2 grains will accomplish wonders without any narcotic, for all pains of gout, syphilis, epilepsy, and other weakening diseases, continuing fevers, confections, stomach troubles, nephritides, etc.

Read on this subject the works of the author where you will find more ample descriptions of the admirable effects and virtues of this Nepenthe.

The Author's Elixir or Mercury of Life (Mercury Brandy)

Purify the little King (Regulus) by several fusions and ablutions till you see it rid of its blackness and have made it quite heavy and starred. Take part of this substance, some sublimated Mercury, especially prepared andedulcorated with salt, 2 parts. Distill everything, and if it does not all go over, add more sublimated Mercury, redistill as before, and everything will go over as grease. Set the receptacle with the grease in a cellar for a few days, and your materia will become liquid, or rather a heavy mercurial water. Thereafter, put this water in B. M. to purify it, then calcine and precipitate it in the water known by the Philosophers, and in one instant you will obtain a precipitate as white as snow. Aside from this, you will see the spirit of vitriol suddenly dissolve. Now separate the water and replace it with fresh water as often as is necessary to remove all acidity. Make the separation by distillation, so that the distilled water leaves an excellent spirit of vitriol for epilepsy at the bottom of the vessel. As to the sweet calx at the bottom, dry it well and sublimate it with your vitriolic sulphur. Then circulate this substance with a good spirit of wine to make an excellent remedy of it. Better, take 3 parts of this white calx, 2 parts of the Regulus with which you had melted the gold and silver (because in this way your materia will more easily sublimate) and 1 part of vitriolic sulphur. Sublimate and resublimate everything twice or three times and as long as there is blackness. You will obtain a sovereign remedy which will have a great and wonderful effect on epilepsy if you give of it a dose of 4 grains. But to do better still, circulate everything with spirit of wine and then distill.

The Author's Panacea

Take 1 part of sal ammoniac, 2 parts of quicklime, mix them well and put them in a glazed earthenware pot, or better, in a big glass flask, the knob of which must be completely luted. Surround it with fire, bringing it gradually closer to the fire. Finally, cover it with the fire. After the fire has lasted for 4 hours, let it cool, and you will find sal ammoniac at the bottom. Separate and dissolve the calx, filter and coagulate according to the Art, then pound it and mix it with double its calx. Put it in a flask on fire, as you did the first time, and at the end of this operation you will find it at the bottom of the vessel considerably increased and fixer than it was before. Dissolve it again, filter and coagulate it as before in a glass or earthenware vessel of Beauvais. Repeat this operation 3 times.

Finally, take your fixed sal ammoniac and melt it in a cast-iron crucible, pour it into ingots such as metals are cast in, grind it and put it on a glass in the cellar where it will dissolve into a white water as clear as crystal. You will see it happen in a few days. Dephlegmatize this water in an alembic in the bath or on an ash-fire, and take care that instead of dephlegmatizing it, you do not remove all its moisture and thus bring it back to its first form of salt.

Take 2 or 3 parts of this dephlegmatized water, put it in a small alembic and heat it. Now add 1 part of sublimated Mercury, reduced to powder, and with a slow heat, you will see it dissolve in a quarter of an hour. This done, take brown paper folded into small pieces, and let it absorb this water of salt and Mercury. Put each such saturated piece in a retort or in another alembic, till the paper has absorbed all the water, then distill on a sand-fire: Your mercurial spirit will come out of the vessel slightly red, due to the paper and the strong fire with which you have driven it out. If this is so, rectify it through the alembic, and it will become clear, beautiful, white, sweet, and of a smell almost resembling that of musk. This is your solvent of pearls, corals, etc. If given by itself, it can serve as an excellent sudorific.

If now you wish to dissolve pearls in this menstruum, take 1 oz of the most oriental, wash them well and pulverize them, then put them in a small alembic of which the neck is only 1 inch wide. Stopper it with a glass cover and put it on a very slow ash-fire where the pearls dissolve in one hour, leaving black feces at the bottom. Now separate what is most clear of your solution, distill it through the alembic, and you will get a solvent that can still be used another time. As to the dry residues at the bottom, distill good spirit of wine 3 or 4 times over them, then distilled water, by which you will dissolve all mercurial spirits of the solution which may have been left in the materia. In this way you will turn your pearls into a philosophical solution that smells as sweet and delicious as musk.

Note that you must let the solution cool as soon as it is done. Then filter it through a brown paper cone put in a funnel. When everything has been filtered, separate your menstruum to dryness through the alembic, as you already did above.

This mercurial spirit not only dissolves pearls but also the Crocus Martis. An excellent red tincture can be extracted from the latter which, when it is separated from its solvent like the pearls, can be used for health and chiefly for the liver. It not only rectifies it but cures its greatest illnesses, such as dropsy, and the most obstinate dysenteries.

Now take some Regulus of antimony, saturated with the spirit of 7 metals and of sublimated Mercury, equal parts. Pound them together and put them in a retort to distill in the form of grease or a congealed oil. Thereafter, throw them into boiling water in which you will first see your oil precipitate as a white powder. Wash this 7 or 8 times with cold water to make it sweet and without tartness. Afterwards rectify it with spirit of wine.

After you have prepared and dried this powder well, mix it with as much crystalline saltpeter and flowers of sulphur, and throw everything into an iron crucible or mortar, then light the fire with a glowing coal, and the saltpeter will ignite and leave your materia calcined at the bottom. Take this calx and dissolve it in hot water to extract the salt from it. Put some fresh saltpeter on the remaining powder and ignite it again. Repeat this procedure 4 or 5 times, to drive out the arsenical poison of the antimony which is what makes your powder vomitive.

When these flowers of sulphur are well dried, dissolve them with the same mercurial solvent as is used for pearls, following the whole process of the dissolution of pearls. If the

solvent does not dissolve them completely, use cohobation.

Take oriental saffron, the best you can find, draw its extract from it with very fine spirit of wine, in accordance with the Art. Separate it by distillation, then distill your saffron 2 or 3 times with common distilled water to attract the scent of the spirit of wine and the saffron, which some find unpleasant. When you make the last distillation, take it to dryness, so as to dry the essence of the saffron so thoroughly that it can be pulverized.

Take some essence of pearls, essence of flowers of antimony, and essence of saffron, as much of one as of the other, mix them well, and pour an excellent spirit of wine over them by two fingers' breadth. Now digest everything in B. M. for 24 hours. Finally, distill the spirit of wine, and your medicine is ready.

Small children are given 3 grains of this remedy, the 15-year-old 5 grains, the aged 7 grains, and strong persons 9 or 10, with a little wine or some other suitable liquid. One dose of this medicine can operate 10 times imperceptibly through perspiration, without in any way altering either the constitution or the temper. That is why it is justly considered one of the most excellent remedies for all deplorable diseases and chiefly for pulmonary consumption, general decline, dropsy, hectic fever, general debility, and fevers; in short, it is a general medicine which not only drives away all the disorders of the human body but also preserves health. Give 15 to 20 consecutive sniffs to uproot the most rebellious diseases, because the chief property of this remedy consists in the restoration of the radical balsam. Sometimes I added to this composition some oil of the Sun, which goes into our Nepenthes, and some of my tincture of salt, which did wonders.

The Great Panacea or the Polychrest Anodyne of Montanus

The preparation of this remedy consists chiefly in two factors, which are sulphur and vitriol, and the true essence of gold.

To prepare the vitriolic sulphur correctly, take Roman vitriol or rather crude vitriol of Hungary. Cook it in common water in a boiling B. M., till a small skin is found on the surface. Then pour a few drops of oil of tartar on it to force the sulphur of vitriol to the bottom, while you are pouring the rest into a wooden vessel by inclination, adding a few wooden sticks to allow the vitriol to coagulate and the sulphur to go to the bottom. When the vitriol that adheres to the sticks is dried by a slow fire, it turns into a yellow powder. Dissolve it again in water and boil it as before till it develops the little skin, upon which pour at once a few drops of oil of tartar. In short, continue with this procedure as you did the first time till all your vitriol has turned into sulphur. Finally, circulate this sulphur several times with an excellent spirit of wine till it is perfectly sweet. Thus is made a great remedy which, when philosophically calcined with an alkalized spirit of wine, turns into a liquid that is suitable for all general debilities, dropsies, intermittent fevers, dysenteries, stomachaches, and especially for pestilence.

Regarding the essence of gold, which gives the name Polychrest to this panacea, it is made as follows:

Take philosophical water made of niter and sal ammoniac, whose preparation we have indicated elsewhere. In 6 oz of it dissolve 1 oz of gold, distill. Then distill 3 oz of this new water over the gold calx, and repeat this 3 times. Thus, to dissolve 1 oz of gold, 1 lb of philosophical water is required.

When your Sun is dissolved, distill the water on ashes in an alembic that is narrower below than above, because in this way the gold will go over better and more easily. Take care not to distill to dryness but only to the consistency of honey or syrup, and to renew the philosophical water each time -- 3 or 4 oz, as we have already said, till at last you see your gold rise together with its solvent, and only a white, somewhat greyish calx is left at the bottom.

This done, take the receptacle into which your gold has filtered together with its solvent, and pour on it 3 times as much common water as your solvent weighs. After well mixing everything, pour on it 4 oz of Mercury of cinnabar to 1 oz of the Sun, and this will first result in an Eclipse. Keep it in the cold for 24 hours, during which time the Mercury will amalgamate with the water. Pour the latter off by inclination, each time adding enough spring water to wash the amalgam several times. Thereafter, it renews the whole body by penetrating to the marrow of the bones, and by uniting with all natural, vital, and animal spirits frees the principal parts of the human body from all great evils that can attack it, especially from epilepsies, apoplexies, paralyses, contractures, syncopes, palpitations, and from all strange and feverish sensations of heat, as also from all pains and obstructions caused by cachexies, dropsies, hysteric and like sufferings - in short, it is the universal medicine and the greatest after the Azoc, which can cause even greater wonders if one adds the tinctures of corals and the all-animating salt.