

fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven, great whales and every living thing that moveth which the waters brought forth abundantly, cattle and beast of the earth and everything that creepeth upon the earth—but nowhere are we told of such a bug or gnat or fungus as this man hath dreamed. He saith forsooth that the true treatment is to keep all extraneous matter away from the wound and even the air which he imagineth to be full of his bugs and gnats and beetles.

He doth not understand or seemeth not to understand, that the real and sole impediment to the redintegration of the unity of any part infringed by external violence is the exotic acidity coming from the aer and impressed upon the sides of the wound, and that the only way of assistance to nature in this exigence is the destruction or extinction of that alien impression, the factor of putrefaction, by the specific counter violence of some superior antagonist.

I conceive that there cannot be doubt that the vitriol hath a very just title to the prerogative of being lifted into the inventory of Astral natures; and that when the powder thereof is applied to the blood effused out of a wound, the balsamical faculty of it is not confined to a mere topical operation, but being conducted by the efflux or aporrhoea of the blood which undoubtedly by a congenerous magnetism holdeth a certain sympathy with that function from whence it was derived in a stream of substituted atoms, extendeth to the individual wound and there operateth to the deletion or extirpation of the acid impression against which it carrieth a seminal antipathy. We cannot dispute the great aphorism of Hermes Trismegistus, *Naturae sunt medicatrices*. We allow her to be the prime and proxime causatrix of all sanation; and all medicaments no more than auxiliatory or adjuvant by the modification of excessive preternatural qualities and remove of impediments: but Nature is not always able to play the part of Chiron to herself, but owes much of the honour of her safety and conquest to the assistant power and amicable coefferency of the vitriol. The same should be understood of the magnetical manner of operation proper to the sympathetic unguent—for indeed sympathetic medicaments are allied unto celestial influences and may transmit their spiritual energy unto determinate patients at vast and indeterminate distances. We know that the contagion of the small pox and plague is frequently started from one brother or sister to another at a distance of many hundred leagues by invisible emissions or pes-tilential atoms without all excuse of intelligence or mutual commerce by intervenient messengers, as also of fear and imagination, so immensely long is the arm of sym-