

coming back again by the same, and meeting with the lump, as flowing back again ; it joins into the refracted Elements, and so into clotters of meal. Do this thrice or four times, and so you may increase it continually, and this must be done in a stove, that the dewy spirit may be fostered. I thought good to tell you also before, that you must not prick the lump, lest the generative blast should breath forth, and flie into the air, for so you will lose your labour ; and there must not want presently a dewy vapour, which being carried into the air, and made to drop, may moisten the lump, so you will rejoice at the wonderful increase : but you must be cunning in the manual application. Pray do not destroy by your negligence, what was invented by the careful ingenuity of those that tried it."

Our bakers would not expect to see this ado made about the wonders of yeast ; but we must recollect the distant day in which "Natural Magick" appeared, and, that many things now viewed as merest matters of course, were as much prized at their first introduction, as our magical agent the steam engine, is now. This book ends by treating of the hatching of eggs—after describing artificial methods "how our ancestors hatched their eggs," Baptista says—

"But a Cock or Capon will perform what the hen should ; do but shew him the chicken, and stroke him gently on the back, and give him meat out of your hands often, that he may become tame. Then pull the feathers off his breast, and rub him with Nettles, for in a few hours, not to say days, he will take care of the Chickens so well and give them their meat, that no Hen did ever do it, as he will."

It strikes us, that from something of this sort, came the saying of the "hen pecked husband." The poor rooster by being despoiled of his plumage, and kept "lieing on nettles," loses his coxcombrty and his courage, and is glad to sit down and hatch in quiet ; the parallel is obvious.

We now arrive at the Fifth Book "which treateth of Alchymy." This book is composed of simple receipts for the cleaning, counterfeiting, and tinting of metals. The Sixth Book is of counterfeiting precious stones.

"From the adulterating of Metals, we shall pass to the counterfeiting of Jewels. They are by the same reason, both arts are of kin, and done by the fire. And it is no fraud, saith Pliny, to get gain to live by : and the desire of money hath so kindled the fire by and of luxury, that the most cunning artists are sometimes cheated."

The seventh book treats of the wonders of the load stone. The proeme seems worthy of copying.

"We pass from Jewels to Stones : the chief whereof, and the most admirable is the Load Stone, and in it the Majesty of Nature doth most appear : and I undertake this work the more willingly, because the ancients left little or nothing of this in writing to pos-