

many interesting operations with which he must have been familiar. For example, the dissolving of gold by *aqua regis*. He notes the white residue (of silver chloride), and describes the crystallization of the chloride of gold under the figure of the growth of a tree. "You see the Sol rise in the glass and grow in the form of a tree with many branches and leaves." A flint taken out of river water may be made to grow by putting it in a cucurbite, covering it with 'its own water', distilling until dry, and repeating the operation until the stone fills the cucurbite. 'In this way, by means of Alchemy, in a few days you will see that a very large stone can be made, such as the Archeus of the waters could scarcely make in many years. . . . Though this may be of no profit to you, still it is a very wonderful thing." He further shows his practical acquaintance with chemistry by writing of 'the enemies of metals', such as aqua fortis, aqua regis, sulphur, antimony, 'which spoils all metals with which it is liquefied in the fire,' quicksilver, which 'makes all metals immalleable and fragile'; but he often throws in things which are inaccurate, as, for example, where he states that mercury will make a steel rod as brittle as glass. In spite of such blemishes one cannot read these chapters without being convinced that they were written by a man with a wide first-hand acquaintance with the chemistry of his day.

His knowledge and skill as a medical man may also be inferred. He begins his treatise on medicine (The Archidoxies of Theo. Par.) with a book on 'The Mystery of Microcosm.' "We have wished to elaborate and write this memorial work of ours, that we might arrive at a more complete and happier *method of practice*, since there are presented to us those mysteries of nature which are too wonderful to be even thoroughly investigated." "And let no one wonder at the school of our learning. Though it be contrary to the courses and methods of the ancients, still it is firmly based on experience, which is mistress of all things, and by which all art should be proved." The critics of Paracelsus have made a great deal of his search for the *elixir vitæ*, but his writings show clearly that his idea was to find powerful medicines which should *conserve* the bodily strength and *prolong* life. "Nor let us think that we must die on some day sooner or later, or that it is derogatory that a