

of the 17th Century gave the following recipe for the manufacture of snakes: "Take some snakes, roast them and cut them in small pieces—then sow those pieces in an oleaginous soil; then from day to day sprinkle them lightly with water from a watering pot, taking care that the piece of ground be exposed to the spring sun, and in eight days you will see the earth strewn with little worms, which, being nourished with milk diluted with water, will gradually increase in size till they take the form of perfect serpents."

Other investigators who tried this method succeeded, of course, only in raising large broods of flies. Kircher noted flies also, but explained their presence by saying that they were "engendered from that substance which constituted the aliment of the snakes."

For restoring dead bees to life, Columella, a Roman writer, recommended that the dead bees be kept until spring and then exposed to the sun among the ashes of the fig tree properly pulverized. Another fanciful statement concerning bees is that of Aristotle, who said that the olive, the cerinthus, and other plants, had the property of generating young bees from their purest juices. Quoting Virgil again on bees, we have these lines:

"From herbs and fragrant flowers, with their mouths
They cull their young."

The peculiar stalked eggs of the lace-winged fly (*Chrysopa* sp.) were at one time described as fungi, but this, however, is not surprising when one considers their peculiar appearance. "Minute insects flying in the air" were supposed to have some connection with intestinal worms in man, and a blight was at one time described as "an easterly wind attended by a blue mist." the easterly wind being loaded with aphids and the eggs of various destructive insects. Electric changes in the air were thought by some to be responsible for honey dew, and Linnaeus thought that the honey dew on hop leaves was due to the caterpillar of the ghost moth (*Hepialus humuli*) attacking the roots.

Coming to insect transformations, Heroldt explained this in a novel way. He stated that "the blood of caterpillars is the only original portion of them, which, being endowed with a formative power, produces an envelope for itself of mucous net-work, and this again by means of a similar power is successively transmuted into the caterpillar, the pupa and the perfect insect."