

repented of his treachery: 'Sed resipuit tandem, et quem vivum convitiis insectatus fuerat defunctum veneratione prosecutus, infames famæ præceptoris morsus in remorsus conscientie conversi poenitentia, hen nimis tarda, vulnera clausere examini quæ spiranti inflixerant.' For these 'bites' of Oporinus, see *Disputat. Erasti*, and Andreas Jocisens *Oratio de cit. et ob. Opori*; for the 'remorse,' Mic. Toxita in *pref. Testamenti*, and Conringius (otherwise an enemy of Paracelsus), who says it was contained in a letter from Oporinus to Doctor Vegerus².

Whatever the moderns may think of these marvellous attributes, the title of Paracelsus to be considered the father of modern chemistry is indisputable. Gerardus Vossius, *De Philos^a et Philos^o sectis*, thus prefaces the ninth section of cap. 9, 'De Chymia'—'Nobilem hanc medicinæ partem, diu sepultam avorum ætate quasi ab oreo revocavit Th. Paracelsus.' I suppose many hints lie scattered in his neglected books, which clever appropriators have since developed with applause. Thus, it appears from his treatise *De Phlebotomia*, and elsewhere, that he had discovered the circulation of the blood and the sanguification of the heart; as did after him Realdo Colombo, and still more perfectly Andrea Cesalpino of Arezzo, as Bayle and Bartoli observe. Even Lavater quotes a passage from his work *De Natura Rerum*, on practical Physiognomy, in which the definitions and axioms are precise enough: he adds, 'though an astrological enthusiast, a man of prodigious genius' (see Holcroft's Translation, vol. iii. p. 179—'The Eyes'). While on the subject of the writings of Paracelsus, I may explain a passage in the third part of the Poem. He was, as I have said, unwilling to publish his works, but in effect did publish a vast number. Valentius (in *Prefat. in Paramyr.*) declares 'quod ad librorum Paracelsi copiam attinet, audio, a Germanis prope trecentos recenseri.' 'O fœunditas ingenii!' adds he, ap-
positely. Many of these were, however, spurious; and Fred. Bitiskius gives his good edition (3 vols. fol., Gen. 1658) 'rejectis suppositis solo ipsius nomine superbientibus quorum ingens circumfertur numerus.' The rest were 'charissimum et pretiosissimum authoris pignus, extorsum potius ab illo quam obtentum.' 'Jam minime eo volente atque jubente hæc ipsius scripta in lucem prodire videntur; quippe quæ mro inclusa ipso absente servi ejusdem indicio, furto surrepta atque sublata sunt,' says Valentius. These have been the study of a host of commentators, among whose labours are most notable, Petri Severini, *Idea Medicinæ Philosophicæ*, Bas. 1571; Mic. Toxetis, *Onomastica*, Arg. 1574; Dornei, *Diet. Parac.*, Franc. 1584; and Pⁱ *Philos^o Compendium cum scholiis auctore Leone Suario*, Paris. (This last a good book.)

(6) A disgraceful affair. One Liechtenfels, a canon, having been rescued in *extremis* by the 'laudanum' of Paracelsus, refused the stipulated fee, and was supported in his meanness by the authorities, whose interference Paracelsus would not brook. His own liberality was allowed by his bitterest foes, who found a ready solution of his indifference to profit, in the aforesaid sword-handle and its guest. His freedom from the besetting sin of a profession he abhorred—(as he curiously says somewhere, 'Quis queso deinceps honorem deferat professione tali, quæ a tam facinorosis nebulonibus obitur et administratur?')—is recorded in his epitaph, which affirms—'Bona sua in pauperes distribuenda collocandaque erogavit,' *honoravit*, or *ordinavit*—for accounts differ.

the following, as explanatory of the property of the Tincture not calculated on by its votaries:—'Objectionem illam, quod Paracelsus non fuerit longævus, nonnulli quoque solvunt per rationes physicas: vitæ nimirum abbreviationem fortasse talibus accidere posse, ob Tincturam frequentiore et largiore dosi sumtam, dum a summe efficaci et penetrabili hujus virtute calor innatus quasi affluatur.' (Gabrielis Clauderi Schediasma.)

² For a good defence of Paracelsus I refer the reader to Olaus Borrichius' treatise—*Hermes de Supertia vincientia*, 1674. Or, if he is no more learned than myself in such matters, mention simply that Paracelsus introduced the use of Mercury and Laudanum.