

metals, gems, salts, and other things of that kind, like different seeds in a bag. These being poured into water, nature then directs every seed to its peculiar and final fruit, incessantly disposing them according to their species and genera." Paracelsus had studied ore deposits and had their orderly arrangement to account for. His words seem like a metaphorical description of the modern theory of crystallization. The last sentence in this interesting chapter is characteristic. After referring to the clear vision of philosophers he bursts out with "But that Greck Satan has sown in the philosophic field of true wisdom tares and his own false seed, to wit, Aristoteles, Albertus, Avicenna, Rhasis, and that kind of men, enemies of the light of God and of nature, who have perverted the whole of physical science, since the time when they transmuted the name of Sophia into Philosophy."

For Paracelsus everything was alive, minerals as well as plants and animals; all had their body, soul and spirit, typified as the elements Sulphur, Salt and Mercury, of which all minerals and metals are composed, 'mysteriously comprehended in universal nature.' "Consider, I beseech you, this tiny grain of seed, black or brown in colour, out of which grows a vast tree, producing such wonderful greenness in its leaves, such variegated colours in its flowers, and flavours in its fruits of such infinite variety; see this repeated by nature in all her products, and you will find her so marvellous, so rich, in her mysteries, that you will have enough to last you all your life in this book of nature without referring to paper books. If God then shows Himself to our discernment in nature so powerful and so wise, how much more glorious will He reveal Himself by His Holy Spirit to our mind, if we only seek Him. This is the way of safety which leads from below to above. This is to walk in the ways of the Lord, to be occupied in admiring His works, and to carry out His will, so far as in us, or as it should and can be in us. This has been my Academia, not Athens, Paris, or Toulouse. After I had read many deceitful books of wise men, I betook myself to this one alone, from which I learnt all that I write, which also I know to be true. Still, I confess, there are many more things which I do not know, but which will surge up to the surface in God's own