

dwell in the air ; watery spirits in the water ; terrestrial spirits or "earth men" in the earth, especially where there are rich veins of ore. These spirits have reason and sensation, are skilled in the different Arts, and can assume a variety of shapes . . . . Other spirits which cannot speak, nor exhibit themselves by their own power, are those which dwell in men and animals, in plants and minerals. They have an occult, operative life, and manifest themselves by the efficiency of their working ; when separated from bodies by our Art they have a most marvellous sanative virtue." This last class of spirits are the essences, quintessences, and elixirs, extracted particularly by the process of distillation, when the 'hot breath' or vapour often condensed into potent liquids. The works of both Valentine and Paracelsus are strongly tinctured with such doctrines. With them the life in all things is no mere metaphor.

The works of Paracelsus have been translated into English from the Geneva folio Latin edition (1658) by A. W. Waite. It is from this translation that I quote. In the book on the *Economy of Minerals* are to be found many passages showing the philosophy held by Paracelsus regarding life in all things. "Elements die as men die, on account of the corruption in them. So water at its death, as it were, consumes and devours its own fruits [minerals], so does the earth its own fruits [plants]. Whatever is born from it returns to it again, is swallowed up and lost, just as the time past is swallowed up by yesterday's days and nights, the light or darkness of which we shall never see again. It is no weightier to-day than yesterday, not even by a single grain, and will after a thousand years be of the same weight still. As it gives forth, so in the same degree it consumes." Thus Paracelsus foreshadowed the doctrine of conservation of matter.

In a chapter on *the death of the tree of minerals* he gives us a fanciful but suggestive theory of the origin of mineral deposits by the action of water, imagining the ore bodies as the branches of a tree which has its roots in the water. "So then, the first matter of minerals consists of water ; and it comprises only Sulphur, Salt and Mercury [the three alchemical elements, according to Paracelsus.] These minerals are that elements spirit and soul, containing in themselves all minerals,