

CHAP. 15.

Of

Mercury or Quicksilver, is the prime idol of the Alchymists, which they pronounce the principle of things, and sperm of Metals; and indeed so true each, that nothing is more false: for if Metals have any sperm, it is within themselves, not elsewhere to be sought; nor will ever mixed bodies naturally resolve themselves into Salt, Sulphur and Mercury; though these Chymical Vulcans do Hammer them out, as *Dom. Riolanus* hath learnedly proved against them. This Mercury or quicksilver, is as it were the Monster of Nature, which will not be subdued under Natures Laws: it is whiter then any silver, more fluxile then water; more permeable then Vinegar; yet it never madesies, often refrigerates, often califies; sometimes curing onely frigid affections, sometimes onely calid ones: when it seems frigid, then it induces calid effects; when calid, frigid ones: it sometimes hurts in small quantity, always in great: it easily loses its proper form, and easily resumes it; and in this it is Miraculous, that it often profits being intromised by the mouth; and often causes Palsey, trembling, and other prave effects, when extrinssecally applied. (*Falop. Cap. 27, & 76. Lib. de lue Vener.*)

Trajan saw some, who being anointed with a liniment made of
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