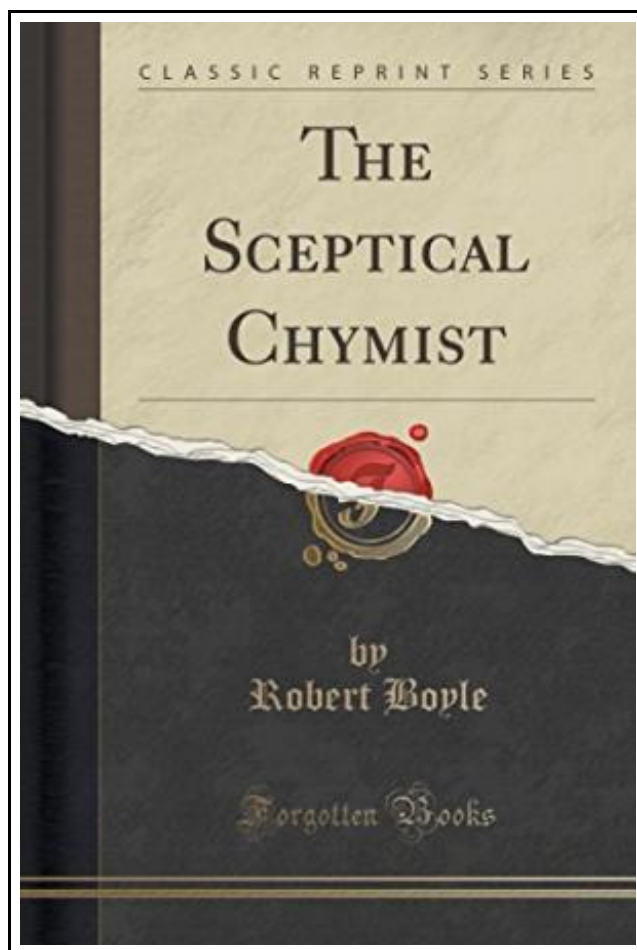


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(Prof. Antone Olson II)

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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The Sceptical Chymist The Sceptical Chymist deals with the experimental evidence, and the reasoning based thereon, adduced by the hcrmetick philosophers -that is, the followers of the Aristotelian doctrine - to prove that all mixt bodies arc compounded of four elements-earth, air, fire, and water; and with the experiments and reasoning whereto the vulgar spagyrist of more than two centuries ago - that is, those who analyse and synthesise material things - appealed for proof of their assertion that the principles of things are three in number, and arc salt, sulphur, and mercury. On the face of it, no great interest seems to belong now to a discussion about the four elements and the three principles, conducted at a time when physical science had not taken definite form, when men s ideas about the changes of material things were vague and inchoate, when exact methods of investigating these changes were unknown, when moral qualities were attributed to inanimate objects, and the examination of natural events was regarded as a part of contemplative philosophy rather than a branch of experimental inquiry. But, let the questions discussed by Boyle in The Sceptical Chymist be stated in their most general form, the importance and interest of them are seen to be great and universal. It is impossible to look around without noticing that most things are constantly changing. If spring is changing into summer - as it is changing now - scarce a moment passes unmarked by the coming of a deeper green; the laburnum, whose depending flowers were yesterday tipped with yellow, to-day delights the eye with a feast of colour; the apple blossom is fading and the...



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