

B E C H E R

From Joh. Jacob. Becher.

Concordantia Mercuriorum Lunae, p. 152. of

Opuscula Chymica

Animated ☿ of CLAUREUS.

Sharpen ☿, until it becomes whiter than snow, & more splendid than glass. Let this be done 4 or 5 times & more. Then rub it with alcoholised ☉, & distil per gradus; at last by a strong Δ brought over into the ∇ of the receiver, & so it is vivified & ascends even to half the height of the glass. And thus you have a ☿ well purified & less moist. The dregs retain in themselves its impurities, which it had assumed by the animation being made, but the humidity is elevated to the top like a moist powder. From this purified ☿ adhering in the middle, & a Ψ of \odot or D (as it may please you) make an $\tilde{a}\tilde{a}\tilde{a}$. Compress it well rubbed upon marble through a thick & fixed cloth. To the part remaining in the cloth, add so much of ☿, as you think there has of \odot or D passed through the cloth, and at length repeat the $\tilde{a}\tilde{a}\tilde{a}$ as well as the squeezing through a cloth, until you know that the whole $\tilde{a}\tilde{a}\tilde{a}$ has passed over together with the ☿.

But if it becomes too clammy, place it for some days in a horse belly to soften, then again express as before. This being done, distill all ☿ thrice, & if anything is left in metallic form, it is necessary again to add as much of the purified ☿ to soften it. Distill again. If the material should become clammy or sticky more than is equal, it must be kept in a horse belly as long as before, until you perceive that all the

☉ has gone over by distillation. To the new ☉ or ☽ , are taken
 XL . or LX before that ☉ or ☽ can be propelled with the
 ☉ . ☉ & ☽ are then called the soul of ☿ , because ☿ by these two
 becomes warm & dry. And so by itself in a short time, if itself be mixed
 with ☉ & ☽ , one single digestion being given, can be transmuted into
 ☉ & ☽ .

ON MERCURY

From *Apologia Aegy. & Chrysoy. Theatrum Chymicum.*

2nd. Vol. p. 35

Preparation of ☿ animatus, by Claudius.

Let ☿ be sublimed 4 times or more, till it rivals the whiteness of snow & becomes transparent like glass refined by sublimation. Then let it be rubbed & ☿ be poured on it, & by giving a strong fire let it be distilled into a receiver, & it will be revived. Thus you will have a most pure & most splendid ☿, & somewhat freed from its too great natural humidity. For the foeces, which are mixed with it in sublimation retain whatever there is of impure, but the humid more rarely of which & also the less refined part mounts to the upper part of the vessel in the likeness of a powder. But the purer & more refined, the heavier & solid part stays in & adheres to the middle part of the vessel which is easy to be passed, & from the same. The resolved & fluid ☿ is in a manner tempered. From the defacated ☿, & ☽ or ☾ reduced to a ☿, let an $\tilde{a}\tilde{a}\tilde{a}$ be made. Let it be rubbed a very long time upon marble, then folded in a very thick cloth, let it be squeezed out, until some finer part of the ☽ or ☾ flow through together with the ☿. Let new purified ☿ be added to the $\tilde{a}\tilde{a}\tilde{a}$, which on account of its thickness has not been able to go through, & again squeezed out, & ever and anon so often let these operations be performed, till the whole $\tilde{a}\tilde{a}\tilde{a}$ has percolated through. But if it be too hard & stiff, being buried some days in a warm horse belly it will be softened & attenuated, & let that be repeated till the whole seed of one or the other shall have flowed through with the ☿.

So the ☽ & the ☉ will be solved into ☿ with ♀ . Those so resolved, distill repeatedly, until the whole shall have dropped over into the receiving vessel under the form of ☿ . But if any shall have stood fast in the bottom of the vessel, there must be added to it new ☿ to be rubbed, to be softened in a warm horse belly & attenuated, & that to be repeated, until the whole shall have dropped into the receiving vessel.

An ℥ of ☉ or ☽ , & nearly ℥ XL of ♀ prepared must be mixed together. Which, if they shall not be sufficient, again more must be added up to 50 or 60 at the most, by whose help & potent humid force, that ℥ j of the seed of one or the other will be beheld truly solved into ♀ . This ♀ is metaphorically called "animated". For as in the bodies of animals, the soul is the principle of heat, & the cause, & without which our bodies would be dead; so ☽ or ☉ is the principle of heat in ♀ , which otherwise would continue most cold, nor at all altered. It is, however this ♀ animated, so very near to ☽ or ☉ , that solely by itself alone acting with extraneous heat, in a short time may be changed into ☽ or ☉ . But that the work may be more expeditiously performed, let there be taken a ℥ j of this same animated ♀ , & let there be mixed with it ℥ j of ☽ or ☉ reduced to a ♀ . It is reduced into a ♀ , if it be first made into an āāā with one of the two & ♀ , then with the Δ , the ♀ will, by degrees have died out. These ℥ ij , that is to say of animated ♀ & ♀ ☽ or ☉ being mixed together, at first with a gentle Δ , afterwards increased by degrees up to the greatest heat, are thoroughly melted in the space of ten days, until they have ended in a white or yellow ♂ .

Next, to this ♂ must be added an equal weight of the same animated

☿ mixed, digested as before, till it shall have changed into a ♁ , & contracted a white or yellow colour. And so by reiterated courses, the equality of weight being kept, the whole animated ☿ will be fixed into a ♁ , white or red or yellow. This dust made into pills with the white of egg mixed with it, & projected by degrees upon a small part of ☾ or ☉ , will be transmuted into the purest ☾ or ☉ . The latter way of the former method depends upon the same reason. For, ☿ , is brought out by the highest art from ♁ , ♂ , & ♀ , & it may be mixed with a ☿ of ☾ or ☉ , as it is given above, it is digested & is reduced into a body of ☾ or ☉ . But no one of all metallic bodies mixed with a ☿ of ☉ is more quickly & perfectly changed into ☿ , than that which is by art brought out of pure ☾ . All these require the work, the diligence & the hand of an Artist, nor can they be done except in the progress of time. From which we shall escape by the latter method of working, that is to say, if we shall obtain the desired perfect ☾ or ☉ seed.

For all metals dissolved by △ , a small part of it projected & dissolved is mixed straightway with the oily parts of the ☿ of the same, & preserves itself, digests & being perfectly united tinges into ☾ or ☉ . But the external △ burns whatever there is of impure & throws it up as a scum swimming at the Top.

☿ , Composition of

Thomas Harris, Surgeon, 1734.

Calcined ♁ , common ☉ , purified ☉ , & crude ☿ , rubbed together & put into a matrass, placed in a sand heat, the △ to be increased to the highest degree for 12 or 16 ☿ , & the ☿ will be ☿ ed.

Boerhaave.

Says the heat of Metallic mines is known to be from 50 to 66½ degrees Fahrenheit, & that we owe this knowledge to Cruquius. This may give us a hint for the degree of Lamp heat for the last part of the process.

Geber, on the Purification of ☿ .

Let ☿ be poured into a glass or stone dish, & a sufficient quantity of ✨ be sprinkled upon it, in order to cover it. Then let it be put upon a gentle Δ , & allowed to get just so warm that it may be touched with the fingers. Then let it be stirred with the fingers, until it be divided into the minutest particles, like dust, & let it be so long stirred, until all the ✨ which was poured upon it be consumed. Then indeed because you find of earthiness in it, let it be washed with ✨ & that thrown off (as before) & let that operation be so often repeated, until its earthiness be changed into the most perfect celestial colour, which is the sign of the perfect cleansing.

Claveus, on the Purification of ☿ .

Purge common ☿ by braying it in a mortar with \ominus & distilled ✨, until it be divided into very small particles; afterwards, wash it & reiterate the purgation & washing, until it be of a blue or celestial colour, which is the sign of a perfect purgation.