

Other writers have preferred the ideas of Kepler, and, like that great astronomer, have considered the globe itself as possessed of vital faculties. According to them a vital fluid circulates in it; a process of assimilation goes on in it, as well as in animated bodies; every particle of it is alive; it possesses instinct and volition, even to the most elementary molecules, which attract and repel each other according to sympathies and antipathies. Each kind of mineral has the power of converting immense masses into its own nature, as we convert our food into flesh and blood. The mountains are the respiratory organs of the globe, and the schists its organs of secretion; it is by these latter that it decomposes the water of the sea, in order to produce the matters ejected by volcanoes. The veins are carious sores, abscesses of the mineral kingdom; and the metals are products of rottenness and disease, which is the reason that almost all of them have so bad a smell *.

Telliamed, vol. ii. p. 169, as well as a multitude of new German works. M. de Lamarck has of late years developed this system to a great extent, in France, and supported it with much ingenuity, in his *Hydrogeologie* and *Philosophie Zoologique*.

* M. Patrin has shewn much ingenuity in supporting these fantastical ideas, in several articles of the *Nouveau Dictionnaire d'Histoire Naturelle*.