

is no Comparison between the Distance of things inanimate to Animals, and that of one Metal to another. Besides many other Things that may be brought to this Purpose. It hath already been said, how some Waters turn Sticks into Stones: And in the Nourishment of all living Creatures, there is a continual Transmutation: and in Metals it is evidenc'd by the Stone *Lapis*, or *Copperas*, blue or green, which, as hath been said, being dissolv'd in Water without any other Artifice turns Lead, Tin or Iron into fine Copper. And although it may be argued with Probability, that Metals do differ specifically one from another, because the Definition of Metal agrees to every one of them, as well as unto Gold, for the particular Properties that agree to every one of them. And for that we see them permanent, and without any Sign, as if Nature did endeavour to change one Form into another, or heighten them into Gold; and for many other Reasons that might be alledg'd. Nevertheless, the contrary Opinion of *Callisthenes* and *Albertus* are very probable; for it is not concluding, that two Things differ *in specie*, because the same Definition agrees to both of them, unless the essential Difference that constitutes them, such be shewn therein. As if one assert a Man and a Lion to be Animals, he cannot truly infer from thence, that they are of different Species. For so *Peter* and *Paul* would be distinct in Specie, if it were not for the Differences of rational and irrational, that limit the Genius. So, although the Definition of Metal do agree unto Lead and Silver, as well as unto Gold

Gold