wonderful brightness. Observe even yet the temperature of it, and beware it be exquisitely right, according to the Rules above-given; if it be not, make it so, and proceed as above. This is a tedious Labour, yet shalt thou see (by the signs appearing in the Work) thy Labour recompensed; then boil it in a pure water, pouring it off and repeating it, until all the saltiness and Acrimony be vanished; then pour out the water and dry the Amalgama, which will soon be done. But that thou mayest be more secure (because too much water will destroy the Work, and break the vessel how big soever it be) stir it or work it upon a clean paper, with the top of a knife, from place to place, until it be dryed exceeding well, then proceed as I shall teach thee.

CHAP. 17.
Of the Preparation, Form, Matter, and Closing the Vessel.

Thou shalt have an oval or round glas, so big as to hold at the most (in its sphere or belly) an Ounce of distilled water, and not less than this if possibly thou canst, but get it as near the measure as possibly thou canst; let the glass have a neck of the height of one palm, or hand-breadth, or span; let it be clear and thick, the thicker the better, so it be clear and clean, to discover the actions which are within it; let it not at all be thicker in one place than in another: The proportion of matter to this glas, let it be half an Ounce of Gold, with an Ounce of $\frac{x}{y}$, which is two to one, and if thou add three to one of the $\frac{x}{y}$, yet the whole Compound will be less than two Ounces, and this proportion is exquisite: Moreover, unless the glas be strong it will not hold in the fire; the winds which are in the vessel in the forming of our Embryo, which will easily break
break a slight vessel. Let the glass be sealed at the top, with so great caution, that there be not the least hole or chink, else the work would be destroyed. So you see that our Work as to our Principles, is costlier than the price of three Florins, yet in the making of the water, the price of what enters into a pound will hardly exceed a brace of Crowns. There wants one confels some Instruments, but they are not dear; and if you had my distilling Instrument, you may easily excuse the use of brittle glasses: yet there are some Doctors who dreams, That the price of one Imperial or Crown will suffice for the whole Work, to whom I have a ready answer to return, that is, That I by that perceive, that they speak without any Basis of Experiment. For there are in the Work other things that are precious and require charge. But they will urge out of the Philosophers, That all which may be bought for a great price, will be found a false Principle in our Work. To whom I may answer, And what is our Work? Namely, to make the stone. That indeed is our small work, but our main Master-piece is, To find a moisture or humidity, in which the 0 will melt, as Ice in warm water. This is our Work to find, for this many seek, even to weariness; to attain this 0 of 0, others for the 0 of the 0: but all in vain. For in this our Work, whatsoever is sold, will prove deceitful. Verily I say, That of the material Principle of our Water, as much may be bought for the price of one Florin, as will prepare or vivifie two whole pounds of our 0. It may become true Philosophical 0 so much sought. Out of this we make a Sol, which by that time it is perfect, is hardly to little chargeable to the Artist, as if he had bought it at the price of the most fine 0; for it is indeed as good in all other Essayes, and far more excellent in our Work. Moreover, we need Glasses, Coals, Earthen-vessels, a Furnace, Iron-vessels and Instruments, which are not to be provided for nothing; away then with these Sophisters, their vile pratling, impudent lies, by which they seduce many. Without our perfect body, our off-spring of Venus and Diana (which is pure Gold) there can never be any tincture permanent. So then, it is, in respect of
OF 2 we have spoken, its Preparations, Proportion and Virtue; of 4 also, its necessity and use in our Work; which how they are to be prepared, I have shewed; how to be mixed, I have taught: of the vessel also, in which they are to be sealed, I have discovered much: which are all to be understood with a grain of salt, else if you proceed too literally, you may happen to erre oftentimes; the which the unskilful cannot see. For we have so mingled our Philosophical subtleties with unusual candor, that unless you smell out many metaphors in our foregoing Chapters, your Harvest will hardly prove better than lots of Time, Costs and Pains; as for the other O. Know that there is a hot gulf, O. Be one common, vile. 

Example 2. Where we, without any ambiguity, told you that one of our Principles was O, the other O, one commonly vendeable, the other to be made by our Art: If you know not the latter, you know not the subject of our Secrets, and may, instead of it, work in Sol vulgar, yet, mistake me not, for our O is in all examples good Gold, and therefore it's vendeable; that is, it may be (if reduced to a Metal) sold without any scruple. But our Gold is not to be bought for money, though you would give a Crown or Kingdom for it; for it is the gift of God, for our Gold is not to be had made to our hand (at least not commonly.) But before it comes to be our O, it stands in need of our Art, yet thou mayest in O and O vulgar also seek our Sol and find it, if thou seek aright. So then our Gold is the next matter to our Stone, and O and O vulgar are near matters, but other Metals are the remote matter, and those things which are not Metalline are most remote, that is alien from it. I my self have sought it in O and O vulgar and found it; yet it is a far easier work out of our Matter to make the Stone, than to ab-