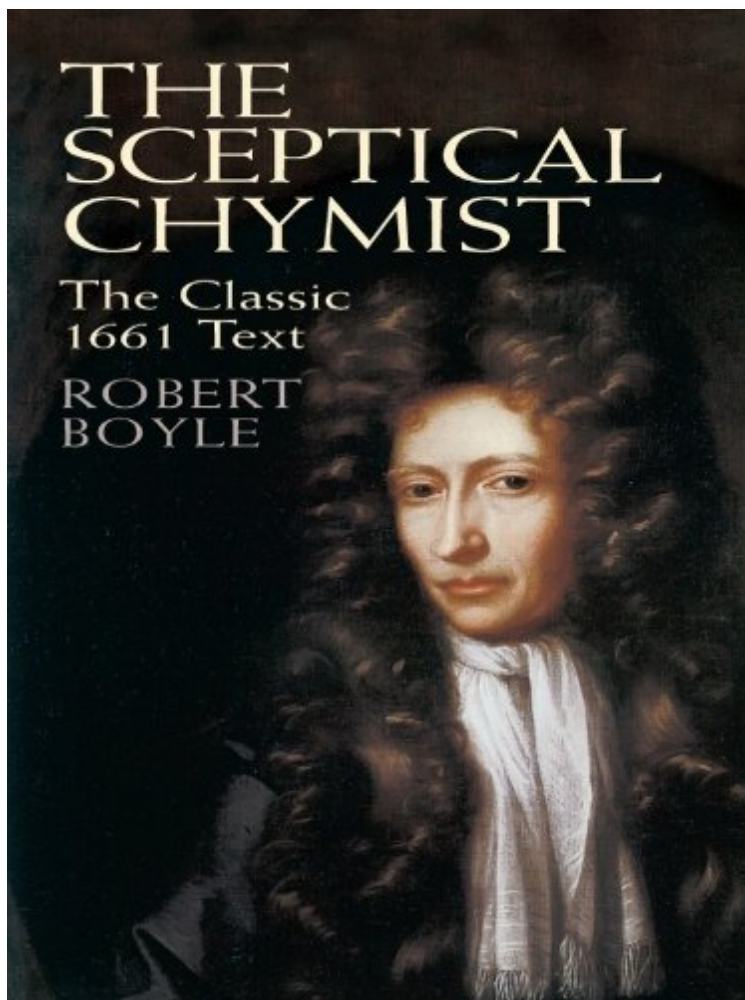


(Library ebook) The Sceptical Chymist (Dover Books on Chemistry)


## The Sceptical Chymist (Dover Books on Chemistry)

*Robert Boyle*

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**Robert Boyle : The Sceptical Chymist (Dover Books on Chemistry)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sceptical Chymist (Dover Books on Chemistry):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A must for students of the History of Chemistry. By Percy Dovetonsils As a former chemist, this book widened my understanding of the roots of my science. We all study Boyle's Law and we all know of the alchemist origin of chemistry so this book presents us with the alchemical side of Boyle, not his gas pressure side we are most familiar with. It is a bit hard to read, yet, like an oyster pried from its shell, well worth the effort. The modern reader will be transported to the technical English used in the 1600's and will have to look up some words, an example of which is "menstruum" for solvent. The reader will also have to a small bit of online Latin translation as Boyle quotes from other contemporaries who wrote in Latin. This is an original writing, not a watered down condensed or abridged version, and as such the reader is transported back to a time when the concept of the elements were not yet known let alone any such thing as a Periodic Table of them. The focus is mainly to dispute with examples, not rhetoric, the Aristotelian premise of the four elements of Earth, Air, Water and Fire and the

three principals of mercury, sulfur and salt. I do recommend this book to any serious student of the History of Chemistry or Alchemy, or any student of the Renaissance and it's changing philosophy. One does not have to have a degree in chemistry to understand it, especially since and as "chemistry", as we know it today, did not exist when this book was written. 26 of 27 people found the following review helpful. The Rise of Chemistry From the Ranks of Alchemy By Clandestine Library For Further Reading Robert Boyle (1627-1691) is mainly known as the "Father of Modern Chemistry" (although he was an alchemist) and was one of the founding members of the Royal Society - which was the world's first international scientific organization. He was a notable figure in the history of "natural philosophy" (science) and, like many scientists at that time, was a Christian. His contributions to chemistry in particular were significant and marked an important transition point in the history of chemical research. Perhaps his main contribution was in making chemistry into a respectable and systematic part of natural philosophy by generating an experimental methodology for alchemists which emphasized evidence, repeatability, public verification and scrutiny of experimental results, quantification, and the use of pure materials to have more control over accuracy of interpretation (impurities often produced mixed and contradictory results which caused confusion more than clarity). Boyle is mostly known for verifying and discovering the proportional relationship of Pressure and Volume for gases by holding the Temperature constant, namely, he verified one side of the Ideal Gas Law ( $PV = nRT$ ). If you are looking for the source on that particular discovery (how he derived  $PV = k$ ), please see The Laws Of Gases: Memoirs By Robert Boyle And E. H. Amagat (1899). The Sceptical Chymist (1661), which was published 1 year after the formation of the Royal Society and contains the research spirit of that organization, is probably his most notable work and it discusses numerous chemical and methodological issues during that time period. The appeals for a uniform language for alchemists is one of the highlights of this book since there was much disorganization in alchemical language since the way many chemical procedures had been done at that time, and before, were often times secret or "occult". Though, alchemy was not disastrous or chaotic, it was often ambiguous or unclear. Boyle followed the Baconian method of induction, which was not that different than the medieval scientific method, in the "Sceptical Chymist" since he constantly appeals to experimental evidence and systematic procedures to validate claims and numerical models on natural phenomenon. A big portion of this book is on the procedures and results of many chemical experiments. Here he does controlled chemical experiments with details on the apparatus used, observations made, and followed by conclusions. Interestingly, there is also talk on the Bible and its influence on Boyle's views of nature and how it inspired his empiricism and objective search for truth in the midst of alchemy. He also asserted strongly that general experiments challenged the assumption that chemical elements were only the classic four: earth, fire, air, and water. He argues that there were more than four elements that make up matter. In the books he defines the term "element" and views substances as being made of primary particles or bodies (what the atomists more than 2000 years ago called "atoms"). One can expect a good amount of discourse on methodology and principles of chemistry throughout the text. His legacy is still felt today in process design and chemistry of gases via "analysis". The language of this book is not that bad, and you get used to certain spelling of words since this is simply a copy of an old copy of the "Sceptical Chymist" from 1661. Over all, this is an important work for any Chemist or Chemical Engineer or general historian of science. For other historical papers by notable historical chemists please read Elements of Chemistry By Lavoisier and Mendeleev on the Periodic Law: Selected Writings, 1869 - 1905 By Dmitri Mendeleev and The Modern Theory Of Solution: Memoirs By Pfeffer, Van't Hoff Arrhenius And Raoult (1899) with almost complete papers of Raoult, Arrhenius; and Foundations Of The Atomic Theory: Comprising Papers And Extracts By John Dalton, William Hyde Wollaston And Thomas Thomson, 1802-1808 (1911) and Foundations Of The Molecular Theory: Comprising Papers And Extracts.

Written in 1661 by the founder of Boyle's Law, a major figure in the scientific revolution of the 17th century, this chemistry classic departs from alchemical tradition by asserting that all natural phenomena can be explained by the motion and organization of primary particles. Contents: Introduction. Physiological Considerations Touching the Experiments Wont to Be Employed to Evince Either the Four Peripatetick Elements, or the Three Chymical Principles of Mixt Bodies. Six Parts. Conclusion.

"After three centuries we now appreciate how completely untenable were the beliefs of the spagyrist and peripatetics, and how significant a part Boyle played in blowing them sky-high." From the Publisher Kessinger Publishing reprints over 1,500 similar titles all available through .com. About the Author fm.author\_biographical\_note1