

Contents

Acknowledgements 11
Note on Citations and Translations 13
Abbreviations 15

Introduction 17

Chapter 1

Julius Caesar Scaliger on Corpuscles, the Vacuum, and Composite Substances 27

- 1.1. Introduction 27
- 1.2. Fracastoro on Corpuscles and the Vacuum 29
- 1.3. Scaliger on Corpuscles and the Vacuum 35
- 1.4. Corpuscles and Mixture 41
- 1.5. Conclusion 45

Chapter 2

Julius Caesar Scaliger on Plant Generation and the Question of Species Constancy 53

- 2.1. Introduction 53
- 2.2. Concepts of Biological Mutability 55
- 2.3. Composite Unities and Subordinate Forms 57
- 2.4. Subordinate Forms and Species Flexibility 59
- 2.5. Subordinate Forms and Singular Species Mutability 64
- 2.6. Conclusion 69

Chapter 3

Jean Fernel on Simple Forms, Composite Substances, and Divine Immanence 73

- 3.1. Introduction 73
- 3.2. Varieties of Divine Immanence 74
- 3.3. Simple Forms and Celestial Causation 76
- 3.4. Simple Forms and Divine Immanence 80
- 3.5. Conclusion 83

Chapter 4

Material Souls and Imagination in Late Aristotelian Embryology 89

- 4.1. Introduction 89
- 4.2. Liceti on Material Souls and the Union of Soul and Body 91
- 4.3. Liceti on Material Souls and Animal Seeds 96
- 4.4. Liceti on Material Souls and Imagination 99
- 4.5. Parisano's Criticism 104
- 4.6. Conclusion 108

Chapter 5

Composite Substances, Common Notions, and Kenelm Digby's Theory of Animal Generation 115

- 5.1. Introduction 115
- 5.2. Rarity, Density, and Animal Generation 118
- 5.3. Animal Generation and Minimal Parts 121
- 5.4. Mixture and Organic Unities 124
- 5.5. Animal Generation and the Epistemology of Common Notions 130
- 5.6. Conclusion 136

Chapter 6

Atoms, Minds, and Walter Charleton's Theory of Animal Generation 143

- 6.1. Introduction 143
- 6.2. The Metaphysics of Generation and Corruption 146
- 6.3. Vital Heat, Vital Spirits, and Animal Generation 150
- 6.4. Emergent Properties and the Problem of the Origin of Minds 156
- 6.5. Conclusion 162

Chapter 7

Daniel Sennert on Poisons, Epilepsy, and Subordinate Forms 167

7.1. Introduction 167

7.2. Poisons, Epilepsy, and Diseases of the Whole
Substance 169

7.3. Poisons, Epilepsy, and Chemical Causation 172

7.4. Poisons, Epilepsy, and Species Mutability 177

7.5. Conclusion 182

Chapter 8

Sennert and Leibniz on Animate Atoms 189

8.1. Introduction 189

8.2. Animate Atoms and the Question of Palingenesis 191

8.3. Sennert on Animate Atoms and Emanative
Causation 196

8.4. Leibniz on Animate Atoms and Emanative
Causation 200

8.5. Concluding Remarks 203

References 211

Index 229