



**A Suggestive Inquiry into the Hermetic Mystery:
With a dissertation on the more celebrated of the
alchemical philosophers, being an attempt towards
the recovery of the ancient experiment of nature**

Mary Anne Atwood

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Mary Anne Atwood (née South), (1817–1910), was an English writer on hermeticism and spiritual alchemy. Mary Anne wrote *A Suggestive Inquiry into the Hermetic Mystery* (1850) at her father's request, and in parallel with his own composition of a lengthy poem on the same subject. Thomas South paid for the book to be published anonymously in 1850, but without having read it, trusting his daughter's judgement. Reading it after publication, he believed Mary Anne had revealed many hermetic secrets that were better left unpublished, and therefore bought up the remaining stock and, with his daughter, burnt them, along with the unfinished manuscript of his poem. Only a few copies of the book survived.

This book is reformatted from a surviving copy originally published in 1850 and may contain an occasional defect from the original publication or from the reformatting.

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