Chapter I. On the commendation of wisdom, & of books in which wisdom dwelleth.

Chapter II. Of the duplicity of the world, and of the late conquests of the ancients.

Chapter III. Of how much good arises from books; & that the corrupt clergy are for the most part ungrateful to books.

Chapter IV. Of handling books in a cleanly manner, and keeping them in order.

Chapter V. Good professors of religion write books; bad ones are occupied with other things.

Chapter VI. There are various ways to learn.

Chapter VII. Of the destruction of books by wars and fire.

Chapter VIII. Of the destruction of books by starveling readers.

Chapter IX. The ancient students surpassed the modern in fervency of learning.

Chapter X. Of the destruction of books by mistakes of the printer.

Chapter XI. Laws are, properly speaking, neither sciences nor books.

Chapter XII. A vindication of poetry, and its utility.
THE BOOK OF THE PHYSIOLOGUS DESCRIBES THE HABITS OF ALL ANIMALS AND BIRDS, AND TELLS OF THEIR LIKENESS TO HEAVENLY THINGS. IT BEGINS BY SPEAKING OF THE LION, KING OF ANIMALS AND BEASTS.

HEREFORE Jacob, blessing his son Juda, said: “Juda is a lion’s whelp: thou didst arise from the prey, my son” (Genesis 49.9). The Physiologus says of the lion that it has three traits. First, when it walks in the mountains, it smells the hunters, and levels its tracks with its tail wherever it goes, lest hunters follow its tracks and find its young and seize them. —Thus our Savior, the spiritual lion, from the line of Juda and the race of David.

There is a reptile called the sun lizard. The Physiologus says of it that when it grows old, its eyes become blind, and it cannot see the light of the sun. What does it do then, through the proper dictates of its nature? It seeks a wall facing toward the east, and goes into a hole in the wall, and watches the rising sun; and the heat of the sun comes to it, and its eyes are opened, and it grows young again.

So you, O man, if you are clothed in the old garments (Colossians 3:9), and the eyes of your heart are blind, seek the rising sun of righteousness (Malachi 4:2), whose name is the Orient, according to the Prophet (Zechariah 3:8), our Lord Jesus Christ; and the garments of the former man will become new for you, and the eyes of your heart will be opened. Well spake the Physiologus on the nature of the sun lizard.
regions of the sun, and burns the sickness and disperses it, and the calendar and the sick man are both returned to health.

The bird is the symbol of our Savior: Our Lord is completely white, and without blemish (Ephesians 5.27). As He said: “The Prince of this world will come, and He

There is an animal in the Nile called the hydrus; it is like a dog. The Physiologus says that it is the enemy of the crocodile; when it sees a crocodile asleep with its mouth open, it goes and rolls itself in mud; and when the mud is dry, it goes into the crocodile’s mouth; and it tears out all his entrails.