

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD—Avoiding the “Endarkenment”	ix
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xi
HOW TO USE THIS BOOK	xiii
CHAPTER 1—The Scientific Method	1
1.1 Philosophies of Science	14
Logical empiricism/positivism	14
Verificationism	14
Inductive logic	14
Popper’s falsificationism	14
Evolutionary biology?	14
Feyerabend’s epistemological anarchism	15
1.2 History of Science	15
Kuhn’s revolutionary and normal science	15
Lakatos and Laudan’s Research Traditions	16
1.3 Views from the Sociology of Science	17
1.4 Science, Democracy and Knowledge	17
Summing up	18
CHAPTER 2—The Antecedents of Science	19
2.1 Plato’s Natural Philosophy	24
2.2 Aristotle’s Natural Philosophy	26
2.3 Natural Philosophy in the Roman Era and Middle Ages	31
Summing up	36
CHAPTER 3—The World Turned Upside Down	37
3.1 The Earth Is Not the Centre!	39
3.2 Evidence for Heliocentrism	44
3.3 The Sun Is not the Centre of the Universe!	47
Summing up	50

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 4—The New Instrument of Science.....	51
4.1 From Renaissance to Discovery.....	58
4.2 A Tale of Pumps and Pressure.....	60
4.3 The Emergence of Science.....	68
Summing up.....	69
CHAPTER 5—Gravity: A Weighty Problem.....	71
5.1 Gravity Is a Universal Force That Governs Movement on Earth.....	73
5.2 Gravity Governs Movement in the Vacuum of Space.....	76
5.3 If Light Is a Wave, Then It Cannot Travel through a Vacuum.....	81
5.4 Light Speed Is Constant: Everything Adjusts around Light.....	82
5.5 Where Did Space-Time Come From?.....	86
5.6 Is Gravity a Force That Is Mediated through a Particle?.....	87
Summing up.....	89
CHAPTER 6—Alchemy to Atoms: A Simple Kind of Magic.....	91
6.1 Alchemy Becomes Chemistry.....	93
6.2 Careful Accounting Shows That Matter Is Conserved and Recycled.....	97
6.3 Electricity Is Chemistry, Not Magic.....	98
6.4 Atoms Have Different Masses.....	103
6.5 Life Emerges from How Atoms Interact with Each Other.....	104
Summing up.....	107
CHAPTER 7—Mass and Energy.....	109
7.1 Energy.....	111
7.2 Electromagnetic Energy Acts Like a Wave.....	114
7.3 Electrons Are Subatomic Particles That Carry Electrical Charge.....	115
7.4 Radioactivity Shows There Is a Link between Energy and Subatomic Particles.....	117
7.5 Mass-Energy Equivalence.....	119
7.6 Wave-Particle Duality.....	122

TABLE OF CONTENTS

7.7	Science Becomes Less Deterministic and Uses Probability to Measure Uncertainty . . .	123
7.8	The Atomic Nucleus and the Atomic Bomb	125
7.9	The Particle Zoo and the Standard Model	127
	Summing up	130
	CHAPTER 8—What Is Life?	131
8.1	Spontaneous Generation	133
8.2	Cell Theory	134
8.3	Genetics	138
8.4	How Genes Work	144
	Summing up	150
	CHAPTER 9—From the Lagoon to the Entangled Bank	151
9.1	Cracks in Aristotelian Biology	156
9.2	The Rise of Evolutionary Biology	159
9.3	Evolutionary Biology after Darwin	164
9.4	Modern Evolutionary Theory	168
	Summing up	169
	CHAPTER 10—Balancing Humanity and Nature.	171
10.1	Ecology: Struggles for Existence across Ecosystems	174
10.2	Humans in the Environment: Environmental Sciences	180
10.3	In Our Hands: Human Control and Alteration of Biodiversity	181
10.4	Science in the Anthropocene	186
	Summing up	189
	APPENDIX—Discussion questions	191
	GLOSSARY	193
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	205
	INDEX	209