CONTENTS

Foreword vii

Note on Translation xi

Introduction xv

Chapter 1
Physico-Theology and Mathematics (1710–1794) 1

Chapter 2
Physiology, Probabilities and Statistics (1795–1830) 27

Chapter 3
Statistical Sources, Law and Medicine (1846–1876) 59

Chapter 4
Selection, Sexes and Statistics (Since 1871) 87

Chapter 5
A Sociological Issue and its Perversion (1898–1942) 121

Chapter 6
A Stochastic Re-Evaluation 145

Conclusion 177

Appendix A
Condorcet (1743–1794) **187**

Appendix B
Charles Darwin (1809–1882) **197**

Appendix C
Maurice Halbwachs (1877–1945) **207**

Appendix D
Sex Ratios at Birth and the Calculus of Probabilities **221**

List of References **231**

Index **251**