

# CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
PREFACE	ix
INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND EDITION	xi
<b>I THE SCIENTIFIC APPROACH</b>	<b>1</b>
Rationalization and generalization of experience— Explanation of a maximum of phenomena by a minimum of hypotheses and reduction of quality to quantity— Considerations of symmetry. The mechanical model— Empedocles: four elements and two forces—Empedocles' effluences and Anaxagoras' seeds.	
<b>II NATURE AND NUMBER</b>	<b>26</b>
The Pythagorean School. Number as the first principle —Geometrical perfection. Mathematical pro- portion. Irrational numbers—The laws of musical harmony—The harmony of the spheres—Plato against the Pythagorean method—Archimedes in the footsteps of Pythagoras. Theophrastus on the link between mathematics and Nature.	
<b>III HEAVEN AND EARTH</b>	<b>50</b>
Irrational roots of astronomy—Improvements in astro- nomical measurements. Hipparchus—Geometrical models. The theory of spheres—The hypothesis of epicycles—Central fire and counter-earth—The helio- centric hypothesis—Determination of astronomical data.	
<b>IV THE COSMOS OF ARISTOTLE</b>	<b>80</b>
Teleological tendencies before Aristotle—Aristotle's teleology—His dynamics. The movements of the stars— Natural movement—Velocity and force. The laws of falling bodies—Negation of the void. Place and space. Finiteness of the cosmos—Aristotle's cosmos in the light of later generations. Theophrastus' criticism.	
<b>V THE WORLD OF THE ATOM</b>	<b>105</b>
The atomic hypothesis as a synthesis of monistic and pluralistic views—Infinity of the cosmos and the number of atoms. Principles of construction of matter from atoms—Statistical considerations. Scientific inference from the visible to the invisible—Primary and secondary qualities. Physical properties of bodies— Molecules—Knowledge and sensation.	

	PAGE
<b>VI THE WORLD OF THE CONTINUUM</b>	<b>132</b>
<p>The "pneuma" of the Stoics and its tension. Beginnings of thermodynamics—The propagation of physical action in a continuum. Waves. Tensional motion—Sympathy and Poseidonius' theory of the tides—Total mixture—Infinite division. Zeno's paradoxes—The Limes. Democritus' problem and Chrysippus' solution. The infinite set.</p>	
<b>VII THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF THINGS</b>	<b>158</b>
<p>The idea of natural law in Greece—Fate and free will. Epicurus' solution—Fate, providence and free will in the Stoic School. Formulations of the law of causality—Divination and the principle of induction—The possible and the probable in Ancient Greece—Beginnings of functional thinking.</p>	
<b>VIII COSMOGONIES</b>	<b>184</b>
<p>Creation of order by the separation of opposites. Anaximander's vortex—The significance of rotatory movement in cosmogony. Anaxagoras' Mind—The cosmogonies of the atomists—The Stoic cosmogony. The return of the identical.</p>	
<b>IX THE BEGINNINGS OF ASTROPHYSICS</b>	<b>204</b>
<p>Plutarch's "Face in the Moon". First notion of general gravitation. The gravitational field of the earth—The terrestrial properties of the moon. Breakdown of Aristotelian concepts—Transition from geometrical optics to physical optics. Is the moon inhabited?—Seneca on the nature of comets. The concept of scientific progress.</p>	
<b>X LIMITS OF GREEK SCIENCE</b>	<b>222</b>
<p>The slow progress of Greek science and the poverty of its technical achievements—Isolation of the scientist and association of science and philosophy—The passive attitude of the Ancient Greek towards nature—Lack of systematic experimentation—The element of repetition in experiment and in the laws of probability—Lack of mathematization—Affinity between Man and Cosmos. The cosmos as a living organism.</p>	
<b>LIST OF SOURCES QUOTED</b>	<b>245</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>INDEX</b>	<b>251</b>