

# Contents

*List of Illustrations* • xi

*Preface* • xv

- 1 **SCIENCE BEFORE THE GREEKS** • 1
  - What Is Science? • 1
  - Prehistoric Attitudes toward Nature • 3
  - The Beginnings of Science in Egypt and Mesopotamia • 12
- 2 **THE GREEKS AND THE COSMOS** • 21
  - The World of Homer and Hesiod • 21
  - The First Greek Philosophers • 25
  - The Milesians and the Question of Underlying Reality • 27
  - The Question of Change • 32
  - The Problem of Knowledge • 33
  - Plato's World of Forms • 34
  - Plato's Cosmology • 38
  - The Achievement of Early Greek Philosophy • 43
- 3 **ARISTOTLE'S PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE** • 45
  - Life and Works • 45
  - Metaphysics and Epistemology • 46
  - Nature and Change • 49
  - Cosmology • 52
  - Motion, Terrestrial and Celestial • 56
  - Aristotle as a Biologist • 60
  - Aristotle's Achievement • 65
- 4 **HELLENISTIC NATURAL PHILOSOPHY** • 67
  - Schools and Education • 67
  - The Lyceum after Aristotle • 73
  - Epicureans and Stoics • 76

- 5 **THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN ANTIQUITY** • 82  
The Application of Mathematics to Nature • 82  
Greek Mathematics • 83  
Early Greek Astronomy • 86  
Cosmological Developments • 95  
Hellenistic Planetary Astronomy • 98  
The Science of Optics • 105  
The Science of Weights • 109
- 6 **GREEK AND ROMAN MEDICINE** • 111  
Early Greek Medicine • 111  
Hippocratic Medicine • 113  
Hellenistic Anatomy and Physiology • 119  
Hellenistic Medical Sects • 122  
Galen and the Culmination of Hellenistic Medicine • 124
- 7 **ROMAN AND EARLY MEDIEVAL SCIENCE** • 132  
Greeks and Romans • 132  
Popularizers and Encyclopedists • 136  
Translations • 146  
The Role of Christianity • 148  
Roman and Early Medieval Education • 150  
Two Early Medieval Natural Philosophers • 157  
Learning and Science in the Greek East • 158
- 8 **ISLAMIC SCIENCE** • 163  
Eastward Diffusion of Greek Science • 163  
The Birth, Expansion, and Hellenization of Islam • 166  
Translation of Greek Science into Arabic • 169  
Islamic Reception and Appropriation of Greek Science • 173  
The Islamic Scientific Achievement • 176  
The Fate of Islamic Science • 189
- 9 **THE REVIVAL OF LEARNING IN THE WEST** • 193  
The Middle Ages • 193  
Carolingian Reforms • 194  
The Schools of the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries • 203  
Natural Philosophy in the Twelfth-Century Schools • 209  
The Translation Movement • 215  
The Rise of Universities • 218
- 10 **THE RECOVERY AND ASSIMILATION OF GREEK AND ISLAMIC SCIENCE** • 225  
The New Learning • 225  
Aristotle in the University Curriculum • 226

Points of Conflict • 228  
Resolution: Science as Handmaiden • 233  
Radical Aristotelianism and the Condemnations of 1270 and 1277 • 243  
The Relations of Philosophy and Theology After 1277 • 249

11 **THE MEDIEVAL COSMOS • 254**

The Structure of the Cosmos • 254  
Mathematical Astronomy • 261  
Astrology • 270  
The Surface of the Earth • 277

12 **THE PHYSICS OF THE SUBLUNAR REGION • 286**

Matter, Form, and Substance • 286  
Combination and Mixture • 288  
Alchemy • 290  
Change and Motion • 295  
The Nature of Motion • 297  
Mathematical Description of Motion • 299  
The Dynamics of Local Motion • 306  
Quantification of Dynamics • 309  
The Science of Optics • 313

13 **MEDIEVAL MEDICINE AND NATURAL HISTORY • 321**

The Medical Tradition of the Early Middle Ages • 321  
The Transformation of Western Medicine • 329  
Medical Practitioners • 330  
Medicine in the Universities • 333  
Disease, Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Therapy • 335  
Anatomy and Surgery • 343  
Development of the Hospital • 348  
Natural History • 351

14 **THE LEGACY OF ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL SCIENCE • 357**

The Continuity Question • 357  
Candidates for Revolutionary Status • 359  
The Scientific Revolution • 364

*Notes* • 369

*Bibliography* • 413

*Index* • 463