

Contents

Part I Insights and Definitions

1	Introduction	3
	Bibliography	8
2	What Is the Meaning of Science?	9
2.1	How Can We Define Science?	9
2.2	What Is a Law of Nature?	13
2.3	More About Laws of Nature	18
2.4	Critique of Empirical Research as Source of the Laws of Nature	22
2.5	Is There an Absolute Truth in Science?	27
2.6	Law of Nature Versus Model	31
	Bibliography	31
3	Laws of Nature and Everyday Life	33
3.1	Laws of Nature and the History of Humankind	33
3.2	Laws of Nature and the Progress of Civilization	38
3.3	Laws of Nature and the Future	43
3.4	Rules, Laws, and Their Importance	48
	Bibliography	51
4	Antiscience and Antireductionism	53
4.1	Antiscience	53
4.2	Reductionism, Antireductionism, and the Origin of Life	63
	Bibliography	69
5	Paradigm Change and Progress	71
5.1	What Is a Paradigm?	71
5.2	Paradigm Change	75
5.3	What Is Scientific Progress?	79
	Bibliography	86

6	How Much Science Is There in Medicine?	89
6.1	Introductory Remarks	89
6.2	Medical Diagnosis	89
6.3	Therapy	92
6.4	Psychosomatic Medicine	98
	Bibliography	102
Part II From Fallacies to Facts: Prominent Mistakes and How They Were Revised		
7	Medicine	105
7.1	The Circulation of Blood	105
7.2	The Origin of Childbed (Puerperal) Fever	110
7.3	History of Local Anesthetics	117
7.4	Origin of Peptic (Gastric) Ulcers	122
7.5	Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis	128
7.6	What Is the Vermiform Appendix Good For?	132
7.7	Homosexuality: Sin or Disease?	135
8	Biology	145
8.1	Is Spontaneous Generation Possible?	145
8.2	Alcoholic Fermentation	153
8.3	Theory of Evolution and Darwinism	157
8.4	Genetics and Darwinism	169
8.5	The Piltdown Man	178
9	Chemistry	183
9.1	What Is an Element?	183
9.2	The Phlogiston Theory	194
9.3	Vitalism in Chemistry	201
9.4	Do Macromolecules Exist?	206
9.5	Invention of Nylon	214
10	Physics and Geology	223
10.1	The Heliocentric World	223
10.2	The Expanding Universe	233
10.3	Atoms: What Does Indivisible Mean?	240
10.4	What Is Light?	251
10.5	Why Do We See Colors?	261
10.6	How Stable Is the Earth's Crust?	269
11	Concluding Remarks	279
	Index	281