Contents

Int	roduction	•	. 1
1.	Anatomy of the Milky Way		. 6
	Cosmic Yardsticks		. 8
	Herr Meyer Solves a Riddle		. 11
	Approaching the Milky Way		. 13
	In the Virgo Cluster		. 15
	The Stars of the Milky Way Make Their Appearance		. 17
	Inside the Milky Way		. 19
	The Centre of the Milky Way		. 21
2.	Light		. 25
	Waves in Empty Space		
	Herr Meyer Dreams About the Electromagnetic Spectrum		
	The Spectrum		
	How the Spectral Lines Are Formed		
	Hydrogen as a Radio Transmitter		
	Thermal Radiation		
	Spectra from the Depths of Space		
	A Millionth of a Gramme of Light		
	Radiation into Matter; Matter into Radiation		
	Energy in Light and Matter		-
3.	Speeding Up the Milky Way		. 46
•	Novae and Supernovae	•	
	The Rotating Disk		
	Two Populations	•	
	Motion Revealed by Light and Radio Waves	•	
	Herr Meyer and His Bicycle		
	The Doppler Effect		
	The Pattern of Movement Within the Milky Way		
1	Plumbing the Depths of the Milky Way		. 61
⊸.	Stellar Proper Motions		
	Radial Velocities		
	Star Streams		
	The Hyades Cluster		

	Beyond the Hyades Farther Out into Space					69
	Pulsating Stars and the Cosmic Distance Scale					70
	How Far Away Are the Globular Clusters?					72
	Harlow Shapley Ousts Us from the Galactic Centre.					74
	The Hyades Stars Determine the Size of the Universe					77
	The Hyddes Stars Determine the Size of the Chiverse	٠	•	•	•	, ,
5.	The Island Universe Debate					79
	The Problem of the Nebulae					79
	Stars Erupt in the Nebulae					83
	"Secondary Nuclei" Within the Andromeda Nebula.	-	•	-		84
	The 26th of April 1920	•	٠	•	•	87
	Walter Baade Increases the Distance of the	•	•	•	•	0 /
	Andromeda Nebula					90
	Andronicua Nebula	•	•	•	•	,
6	The Universe Is Expanding					93
v.	The High Velocities of the Spiral Nebulae	•	٠	•	•	94
	Are We in the Centre of the Universe?	•	•	•	•	100
	Expansion and Olhars' Daredox	٠	٠	•	•	100
	Expansion and Olbers' Paradox	•	٠	•	•	100
	When Did It Begin?	٠	• •	•	•	
	Galaxies That Are Approaching	•	٠	٠	٠	107
	Doubts About the Expansion	•	٠		•	109
	What Lies Farther Out?	•	٠	•	•	110
7	The Rig Rang in Flotland					112
/٠	The Big Bang in Flatland	•	•	•	•	112
	The West of the Flatters	•	•	•	•	113
	The World of the Flatmen	٠	•	٠	•	_
	A Two-Dimensional World's Astronomy	•	٠	•	٠	116
	Geometry in Flatland	•	•	٠	•	118
	True Curved Surfaces					124
	Is Our Three-Dimensional Space Curved?					128
	Ghosts from the Fourth Dimension					129
0	F					424
δ.	Expansion and Gravity	٠	٠	٠	٠	131
	It Is the Same Everywhere in the Universe as It Is He	ere	٠	•	•	131
	Which Curved Universe Do We Inhabit?	٠	٠	•		133
	The Expansion Slows Down				٠	137
	Expanding Flat Universes					138
	From Flatland to Our Universe					140
	Gravitational Repulsion?					145
	Which Came First, the Chicken or the Egg?					148
	The Russian Balloonist and Einstein's Mistakes					149
	The Theory of the Steady-State Universe					151
	The Realm of the Nebulae					154
	Calania Datata					155

		Contents	XIII
	The Invisible Material		159
	The Zoo of Galaxies		160
	Galactic Nuclei		164
	Seyfert Galaxies		165
	Clusters of Galaxies		167
	Cannibalism Among Galaxies		169
	Clusters of Clusters		171
10.	The Radio Sky		173
	The Birth of Radio Astronomy		173
	Radio Waves from the Milky Way		176
	The Story of Cygnus A		180
	Radio Galaxies		184
	The Twin Exhaust Model		187
	"Tadpole" Galaxies and Aperture Synthesis		191
11.	The Mysterious Quasars		194
	The Classification of Radio Sources		195
	Stars That Are Utterly Unlike Anything Ever Seen		196
	The Recession Velocities of Radio Stars		199
	Are Quasars Really Distant?		201
	Black Holes in Quasars?		202
	The Absorption Lines in Quasars		207
	The Problem of Superluminal Velocities		209
	Herr Meyer and the Firework Display		211
	A Counter-Example		213
	Are There Quasars in the Centres of Galaxies? .		214
	The Double Quasar		215
12.	and There Was Light		217
	Radio Emission from Our Bodies		218
	Searching for Faint Radiation from the Milky Way		220
	The Radiation Remaining from the Big Bang		221
	Cold Radiation from the Hot Big Bang		223
	Our Slipstream in Space		224
	The Cosmic Mixture of Matter and Radiation		225
	Cosmic Material in the Laboratory		226
	When Radiation and Matter Separated		228
	Radiation Becomes Dominant		229
	Where Is the Antimatter?		230
	The First Chemical Elements		231
	Are Neutrinos Sufficient to Close the Universe?		233
	Our Universe's Luminous Boundary		235
	Olbers' Paradox, for the Last Time		238

13. The Intelligent Universe	240
Where Did Galaxies and Quasars Come from?	240
Why Is the Universe so Smooth?	242
We Are Here Because the Universe Is Uniform	244
What Came Before?	244
At the Origin of Time	246
When the Universe Was Tossed into Physics	247
Do Natural Laws Determine the Form of the Universe?	249
A Time-Lapse Film of the Universe	251
Appendices	254
A. Frequency and Wavelength	254
B. How the Distance of the Hyades Is Determined	255
C. The Space Telescope and Stellar Parallaxes	256
D. Distances by Dead Reckoning	257
Author and Subject Index	259