CONTENTS

	Illustrations	vii
	Preface	XV
1.	The meaning of elegance	1
2.	Celestial mechanics: the route to Newton	18
3.	Bringing the heavens down to earth	37
4.	So what is heat?	61
5.	Elegance and electricity	87
6.	Throwing light on light: with the story of Thomas Young	106
7.	How do nerves work?	140
8.	Information handling in the brain	170
9.	The genetic code	196
10.	Epilogue: a cautionary tale	232
	Appendix to Chapter 4	235
	Notes	245
	Index	263