

Contents

| | | |
|----------|--|----|
| 1 | Introduction | 1 |
| 2 | Philosophy | 11 |
| 2.1 | Philosophy and Language | 12 |
| 2.2 | World and Mind: Schrödinger's Dilemma | 16 |
| 2.3 | Devaluation of Philosophy | 19 |
| 2.4 | Wittgenstein vs. Jaspers | 22 |
| 3 | Mathematics | 27 |
| 3.1 | Sets and Structures | 30 |
| 3.2 | Proofs | 33 |
| 3.3 | Mathematics: Man-Made or Man-Independent? | 36 |
| 3.4 | Numbers and Spaces | 40 |
| 3.5 | Differential Calculus | 42 |
| 4 | Natural Science | 45 |
| 4.1 | Our Common World | 54 |
| 5 | Reductionism | 59 |
| 5.1 | Reduction by Decomposition | 66 |
| 5.2 | Reduction by Generalization or Unification | 75 |
| 5.3 | Reduction by Replacement | 76 |
| 5.4 | Reduction of Effective Theories | 77 |
| 5.5 | The Special Role of Physics | 79 |

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----|
| 6 | Physics | 81 |
| 6.1 | History and Overview | 81 |
| 6.2 | Physical Theories and Experiments | 84 |
| 6.3 | Physics and Mathematics | 98 |
| 7 | The Pillars of Physics | 101 |
| 7.1 | Classical Mechanics | 102 |
| 7.2 | Classical Field Theory | 107 |
| 7.3 | Special Theory of Relativity | 113 |
| 7.4 | General Theory of Relativity | 126 |
| 7.5 | Statistical Mechanics | 137 |
| 7.6 | Quantum Mechanics | 148 |
| 7.7 | Quantum Field Theory | 171 |
| 7.8 | The Standard Model of Particle Physics | 182 |
| 7.9 | Cosmology | 190 |
| 8 | The Unknown | 207 |
| 8.1 | The Hunt for the Theory of Everything | 207 |
| 8.2 | Open Questions | 213 |
| 8.3 | The Crisis of Physics | 223 |
| 8.4 | The Multiverse | 233 |
| 9 | Things and Facts | 237 |
| 9.1 | Facts | 237 |
| 9.2 | Things | 250 |
| 9.3 | World and Reality | 253 |
| 9.4 | Time | 256 |
| 10 | The Practical Limits of Physics | 261 |
| 10.1 | Once Again: Scales | 264 |
| 11 | The Fundamental Limits of Physics | 269 |
| 11.1 | The Hard Problem of Consciousness | 270 |
| 11.2 | The Flow of Time | 274 |
| 11.3 | Qualia and Physicalism | 277 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 12 Conclusion | 283 |
| 12.1 Physics and Reality | 283 |
| 12.2 The Richness of Physics | 287 |
| 12.3 Practical Limits and Crisis of Physics | 288 |
| | |
| Literature | 291 |
| | |
| Index | 293 |