CONTENTS

FOREWORD BY LOUIS DE BROGLIE page ix

I CAUSALITY AND CHANCE IN NATURAL LAW

	1 Introduction	1
	2 Causality in Natural Processes	4
	3 Association v. Causal Connection	5 7
	4 Significant Causes in a Given Context	7
	5 More General Criteria for Causal Relationships	10
	6 Causal Laws and the Properties of Things	12
	7 One-to-Many and Many-to-One Causal	
	Relationships	16
	8 Contingency, Chance, and Statistical Law	20
	9 The Theory of Probability	25
	10 General Considerations on the Laws of Nature	28
	11 Conclusion	32
II	CAUSALITY AND CHANCE IN CLASSICAL PHYSICS: THE PHILOSOPHY OF MECHANISM	
	MECHANISM	
	1 Introduction	34
	2 Classical Mechanics	34
	3 The Philosophy of Mechanism	36
	4 Developments away from Mechanism in Classical	
	Physics	39
	5 Wave Theory of Light	40
	6 Field Theory	41
	7 On the Question of What is the Nature of the	
	Electromagnetic Field	43
	8 Field Theories and Mechanism	45
	9 Molecular Theory of Heat and the Kinetic	47
	Theory of Gases	47

Contents

10	On the Relationship between Microscopic and Macroscopic Level, according to the Molecular	
	Theory	49
11	Qualitative and Quantitative Chances	52
12	2 Chance, Statistical Law, and Probability in Physics The Enrichments of the Conceptual Structure of Classical Physics and the Philosophy of	54
14	Mechanism A New Point of View towards Probability and	56
14	A New Point of View towards Probability and Statistical Law—Indeterministic Mechanism	62
15	Summary of Mechanism	65
III TH	E QUANTUM THEORY	
1	Introduction	68
2	Origin of the Quantum Theory	70
3	On the Problem of Finding a Causal Explanation of the Quantum Theory	79
4	The Indeterminacy Principle	81
5	Renunciation of Causality in Connection with the Atomic Domain a Consequence of the Indeter- minacy Principle	84
6	Renunciation of Concept of Continuity in the	07
Ū	Atomic Domain	89
7	Renunciation of all well-defined Conceptual Models in the Microscopic Domain—The Principle of Complementarity	91
8	Criticism of Conclusions drawn in the usual Inter-	
	pretation of the Quantum Theory on the Basis of	~ ~
	the Indeterminacy Principle	94
9	The Usual Interpretation of the Quantum Theory a Form of Indeterministic Mechanism	101
IV AL	TERNATIVE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE QUANTUM THEORY	
-	Introduction	104
2	General Considerations on the Sub-Quantum	
•	Mechanical Level	106
. 3	Brief Historical Survey of Proposals for Alternative Interpretations of the Quantum Theory	109
1	A Specific Example of an Alternative Interpreta-	107

۲

4 A Specific Example of an Alternative Interpreta-tion of the Quantum Theory vi

111

Contents

	5 Criticisms of Suggested New Interpretation of	
	the Quantum Theory	117
	6 Further Developments of the Theory	118
	7 The Current Crisis in Microscopic Physics	121
	8 Advantages of New Interpretation of Quantum	
	Theory in the Guidance of Research in New	
	Domains	123
	9 Alternative Interpretation of the Quantum Theory	
	and the Philosophy of Mechanism	126
	Bibliography	128
v	MORE GENERAL CONCEPT OF NATURAL	
	LAW	
	1 Introduction	130
	2 Summary of the Essential Characteristics of a	
	Mechanistic Philosophy	130
	3 Criticism of the Philosophy of Mechanism	131
	4 A Point of View that goes beyond Mechanism	132
	5 More Detailed Exposition of the Meaning of	
	Qualitative Infinity of Nature	137
	6 Chance and Necessary Causal Interconnections	140
	7 Reciprocal Relationships and the Approximate and	
	Relative Character of the Autonomy of the Modes	
	of being of Things	143
	8 The Process of Becoming	146
	9 On the Abstract Character of the Notion of	1 5 0
	Definite and Unvarying Modes of Being	153
	10 Reasons for Inadequacy of Laplacian Determinism	158
	11 Reversibility versus Irreversibility of the Laws of Nature	160
	12 Absolute versus Relative Truth—The Nature of	100
	Objective Reality	164