

**THE SCIENTIFIC WORK OF
RENÉ DESCARTES**
(1596–1650)

J. F. SCOTT

CONTENTS

FOREWORD.

PREFACE.

CHAPTER		<i>Page</i>
	I. Early Life and Training.	1
	II. Brief Survey of Descartes' Scientific Work.	7
	III. The <i>Discours de La Méthode</i> .	14
	IV. <i>La Dioptrique</i> .	27
	V. <i>Les Météores</i> .	64
	VI. Introduction to <i>La Géométrie</i> .	84
	VII. <i>La Géométrie</i> . Book I. Problems which can be Constructed by means of Circles and Straight Lines only.	93
	VIII. <i>La Géométrie</i> . Book II. On the Nature of Curves.	101
	IX. <i>La Géométrie</i> . Book III. The Construction of Solid and Super-solid Problems.	134
	X. The <i>Principia Philosophiæ</i> . I. The Principles of Human Knowledge. II. The Principles of Material Things.	158
	XI. The <i>Principia Philosophiæ</i> . III. Of the Visible World.	167
	XII. The <i>Principia Philosophiæ</i> . IV. The Earth.	182
	XIII. Conclusion. Importance of Descartes' Work in the History of Science.	195
APPENDIX.	Brief Biographical Notes on some of the Less Important Persons mentioned in the preceding pages.	200
	List of Works Consulted.	206
	Index.	209