

Contents

v	Preface Science with a Smile
13	Personalities
14	Astronomical poetry and quips
15	Antimatter concern
16	New genesis
17	Socrates among the Athenians
18	An interview with Charles Babbage
22	Blake and fractals
23	Walter Nernst
24	Peter Debye
24	Systems analysis
25	Einstein said
29	Academic Life
30	How far can a dog run into the woods?
30	Excerpts from <i>Computer Bluff</i>
36	Irony as a phenomenon in natural science and human affairs
42	Prestige quantified
43	Continents adrift: new orthodoxy or persuasive joker?
60	From the devil's DP dictionary
64	The generic word processor
69	Computing machinery and intelligence
75	Classroom Foibles and Follies
76	What every quantum mechanic should know
79	A problem of quantum mechanics
80	Near misses
80	Science fiction
82	Advantages of physics
82	Outline of recent advances in science
84	Letters to a chemistry professor
89	The ergodic skeleton in the cupboard of thermodynamics
91	Gems from the years, or To err is human

93	Bureaucracy
94	6 phases of a project
94	A minimal/maximal handbook for tourists in a classified bureaucracy
96	On the optimum size for an establishment
99	Research
100	Mathematical analysis of the twelve days of Christmas
101	An anthology of Einsteinian limericks
102	Quoted and attributed in <i>The Observatory</i>
104	The expanding unicum
105	Human genetics
106	Lines inspired by a lecture on extra-terrestrial life
108	Note on the age of the earth
110	Said a mathematician (age 7)
111	Raman's rogues
112	$1 + 1 = 2$ expounded
113	The population density of monsters in Loch Ness
117	Watchwords
119	Are you troubled by irregularity?
122	On the electrodynamics of moving fireflies
127	Interdisciplinary Strivings
128	How to write an article to impress your peers
131	The itinerant naturalist
133	A brief history of scholarly publishing
134	An editor writes to William Shakespeare
136	Authorship of scientific papers
138	Triassic dinosaur
139	Delphinus Loquens?
139	Worm-breeding with tongue in cheek
151	'Ginus' gives advice
152	Four mathematical clerihews
153	Toward a foreword
	Noah
	Once upon a time...
	Quickies
	Miniprofiles
159	The love-lorn chemist—an enigmatic epic
163	The chemical engineer

Contents

163	Chemical structure puns
165	Truths, half-truths, and statistics
171	Mystery, Magic and Medicine
172	The language of medicine
173	Humor plus humility equals humaneness
175	What's funny about doctors?
186	Thoughts about medical writing: IV. Can it be funny and medical?
188	Humor and the physician
192	Some hoaxes in medical history and literature
202	Fun at the expense of specialists
205	Conferences, Reports
206	How to act at a seminar (from the cycle 'Useful advice to scientists')
210	Conference in conception
213	If summary papers incline to prosaic then try dactylic or even trochaic
216	Modern type concepts in entomology
218	Liposome letters <i>et al</i>
221	Virus infection of liposomes (or virology for the microveterinarian)
221	Reconstitution of membranes
223	How liposomes influenced my life and got away with it
225	English is our second language
230	Next slide please
232	Two famous papers
234	The conference
235	Technical expressions
238	How to survive a conference
241	Fluorescent dyes for differential counts by flow cytometry: does histochemistry tell us much more than cell geometry?
245	Mathmanship
249	How to set up a consortium
252	How to display data badly

279	Confusion, Frustration
280	The certainty of uncertainty
282	Technology succumbs to success
283	The science of why nothing works the way it's supposed to
295	New fibre runs into trouble
297	Pathological science
302	Atomic medicine
303	A mathematician's miscellany
306	Adventures of a cross-disciplinarian
314	Mathematical motivation through matrimony
319	This is the theory Jack built
321	Warnings
322	Pickles will kill you!
323	Silly asses
324	Fermi on the importance of being quantitative
326	Dread of nakedness
328	Unnatural 'nature'
331	An economist treats mathematics poetically
332	There was a young chemist ...
332	Put your brains in your pocket
334	Guests and hosts
337	Black holes
341	Sonnet on a horological parasite
342	The mathematical physicist
342	The hazards of WATER
343	The art of medicine
345	Parody
346	Encounters with quantum electrodynamics
348	Better names for units
349	Bizarre measures
349	On first looking into McConnell's <i>Manual</i>
351	Once upon a time . . .
353	The anti-Brownian movement
356	Body ritual among the Nacirema
363	The revolution of the corpuscle

Contents

365	Spoof
366	The Schuss-yucca (<i>Yucca Whipplei</i> , var. <i>Schuss</i>)
369	When the data nets laughed
371	Trans-Canada high vacuum line
374	Introduction to the Number 2-B Regrettor. A 1937 <i>engineering parody that foreshadowed thinking machines</i>
387	An archaeological hoax
388	Some hoaxes in the medical literature
392	The moon hoax
393	An introduction to semiconductors
403	Food and Environmental Concerns
404	A ballad of energy policy
405	A ballad of ecological awareness
409	Conservation versus technology
410	God and EPA
412	Tuna on rye, 1984
414	Obsolescence
414	Cartoons and the environment
417	Looking Back
418	On fashions in science
419	Remarks on quarks
420	Earth, heavens, and beyond
423	Biology in verse
424	Science and the citizen
427	The demise of the slide rule
428	Errors and myopia
430	4004 B.C.
432	Portrait of the scientist as a late victorian ruin
447	For Further Reading
448	Index

