Contents

1 Biology as a Process of Inquiry ............................... 1
  1.1 Introduction ........................................ 1
  1.2 The Growth of Biological Thought: The Nineteenth Century  2
  1.3 The Twentieth Century Revolution in Biology ............... 7
  1.4 The Spirit of Inquiry: Some Unsolved Problems in Biology  13
    1.4.1 The Excitement of Unexpected Discovery ............. 13
    1.4.2 Butterfly Migration ................................ 15
    1.4.3 Hen’s Teeth and Evolution .......................... 20
    1.4.4 The Chemical Origin of Life ....................... 22
  1.5 Conclusion ......................................... 26
Further Reading ......................................... 27

2 The Nature and Logic of Science ............................. 29
  2.1 Introduction ....................................... 30
  2.2 Science as an Intellectual Discipline ..................... 30
  2.3 The Logic of Science ................................ 37
  2.4 The Logic of Science: Induction and Deduction ............ 44
  2.5 The “Dissection” of an Experiment ....................... 48
  2.6 The Logic of Science: Hypotheses as Explanations ........ 52
  2.7 Bias in Science ..................................... 56
  2.8 The Concept of Paradigms ............................. 63
  2.9 Modern Science, Materialism and Idealism ................ 71
  2.10 Conclusion: The Strengths and Limitations of Science .... 77
  2.11 Exercises .......................................... 78
Further Reading ......................................... 81

3 The Nature and Logic of Science: Testing Hypotheses ........ 83
  3.1 Introduction ....................................... 83
  3.2 Testing Hypotheses: Some General Principles .............. 83
    3.2.1 Testing Hypotheses by Observation .................. 83
    3.2.2 Testing Hypotheses by Experiments ................. 84
    3.2.3 The Importance of Uniformity and Sample Size ....... 86
3.3 A Case Study in Hypothesis Formulation and Testing: How Is Cholera Transmitted?  ........................................ 88
  3.3.1 Disease: The Early Views.  ............................... 88
  3.3.2 Snow’s Observations  .................................... 89
  3.3.3 An Alternative Hypothesis  ............................. 90
  3.3.4 The Case of the Broad Street Pump.  ............... 92
  3.3.5 Objections to Snow’s Water-Borne Hypothesis ..... 93
  3.3.6 The Critical Test  ....................................... 94
  3.3.7 A Wider Applicability and the Role of Chance ..... 95
  3.3.8 The Mechanism of Cholera Action: A Modern
       Perspective ............................................... 96
  3.4.1 Background: The Origin of the AIDS Crisis .......... 96
  3.4.2 The Nature of HIV Infection  .......................... 100
  3.4.3 Treatment and/or Cure for AIDS  .................... 104
3.5 Conclusion  .................................................. 105
  3.5.1 Questions for Critical Thinking  ....................... 106
Further Reading  .................................................. 107

4 Doing Biology: Three Case Studies  ................................ 109
  4.1 Introduction  ................................................. 109
  4.2 Formulating and Testing Hypotheses in the Laboratory:
       The Discovery of Nerve Growth Factor  ................ 110
  4.3 Research in the Field: Homing in Salmon  ................ 115
       4.3.1 The Organism ........................................... 116
       4.3.2 Two Possible Hypotheses  ........................... 118
       4.3.3 Tabulating the Results ................................ 119
       4.3.4 Further Questions  ..................................... 121
       4.3.5 Testing the Pheromone Hypothesis Further ....... 124
       4.3.6 “Dissecting” the Experiments  ...................... 126
       4.3.7 Statistical Significance  ............................... 127
  4.4 An Evolutionary Historical Case: Mass Extinctions
       and the End of the Dinosaurs: The Nemesis Affair .... 129
       4.4.1 Testing the Impact Hypothesis  ....................... 131
       4.4.2 Extinctions and the Paleontological Record ....... 132
       4.4.3 Periodic Mass Extinctions  ............................ 133
       4.4.4 The Nemesis Hypothesis  ............................... 135
  4.5 Conclusion  .................................................. 136
Further Reading  .................................................. 137

5 The Social Context of Science: The Interaction of Science
    and Society .................................................... 139
  5.1 Introduction  ................................................. 140
  5.2 Science and Technology—The Public Confusion ........ 140
  5.3 The Social Construction of Science  ....................... 141
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.4 The Social Responsibility of Science</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4.1 “Breeding Better People”: Genetics and Eugenics, 1900–1945</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4.2 Herbicides in Southeast Asia</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4.3 Stem Cell Biology: The Ethical Concerns</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4.4 Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5 Ethical and Social Issues in the Use of Human Subjects for Research</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6 Science and “Pseudoscience”: “Scientific Creationism” and “Intelligent Design”</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6.1 “Scientific” Creationism</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7 Science and Religion: An Underlying Difference</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8 Conclusion</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.9 Exercises</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further Reading</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A: The Analysis and Interpretation of Data</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further Reading</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scientific Process and Social Issues in Biology Education
Allen, G.E.; Baker, J.J.W.
2017, XI, 232 p. 61 illus., Softcover
ISBN: 978-3-319-44378-2