CONTENTS

	Prologue	1
1	CAN A COMPUTER HAVE A MIND?	3
	Introduction	3
	The Turing test	6
	Artificial intelligence	14
	An AI approach to 'pleasure' and 'pain'	17
	Strong AI and Searle's Chinese room	21
	Hardware and software	30
2	ALGORITHMS AND TURING MACHINES	40
	Background to the algorithm concept	40
	Turing's concept	46
	Binary coding of numerical data	56
	The Church–Turing Thesis	61
	Numbers other than natural numbers	65
	The universal Turing machine	67
	The insolubility of Hilbert's problem	75
	How to outdo an algorithm	83
	Church's lambda calculus	86
3	MATHEMATICS AND REALITY	98
	The land of Tor'Bled-Nam	98
	Real numbers	105
	How many real numbers are there?	108
	'Reality' of real numbers	112
	Complex numbers	114

Construction of the Mandelbrot set 120
Platonic reality of mathematical concepts? 123

4 TRUTH, PROOF, AND INSIGHT 129

Hilbert's programme for mathematics 129
Formal mathematical systems 133
Gödel's theorem 138
Mathematical insight 141
Platonism or intuitionism? 146
Gödel-type theorems from Turing's result 151
Recursively enumerable sets 155
Is the Mandelbrot set recursive? 161
Some examples of non-recursive mathematics 168
Is the Mandelbrot set like non-recursive mathematics? 177
Complexity theory 181
Complexity and computability in physical things 188

5 THE CLASSICAL WORLD 193

The status of physical theory 193
Euclidean geometry 202
The dynamics of Galileo and Newton 209
The mechanistic world of Newtonian dynamics 217
Is life in the billiard-ball world computable? 220
Hamiltonian mechanics 225
Phase space 228
Maxwell's electromagnetic theory 238
Computability and the wave equation 243
The Lorentz equation of motion; runaway particles 244
The special relativity of Einstein and Poincaré 248
Einstein's general relativity 261
Relativistic causality and determinism 273
Computability in classical physics: where do we stand? 278
Mass, matter, and reality 280

6 QUANTUM MAGIC AND QUANTUM MYSTERY 291

Do philosophers need quantum theory? 291
Problems with classical theory 295
The beginnings of quantum theory 297

The two-slit experiment 299
Probability amplitudes 306
The quantum state of a particle 314
The uncertainty principle 321
The evolution procedures U and R 323
Particles in two places at once? 325
Hilbert space 332
Measurements 336
Spin and the Riemann sphere of states 341
Objectivity and measurability of quantum states 346
Copying a quantum state 348
Photon spin 349
Objects with large spin 353
Many-particle systems 355
The 'paradox' of Einstein, Podolsky, and Rosen 361
Experiments with photons: a problem for relativity? 369
Schrödinger's equation; Dirac's equation 372
Quantum field theory 374
Schrödinger's cat 375
Various attitudes in existing quantum theory 379
Where does all this leave us? 383

7 COSMOLOGY AND THE ARROW OF TIME 391
The flow of time 391
The inexorable increase of entropy 394
What is entropy? 400
The second law in action 407
The origin of low entropy in the universe 411
Cosmology and the big bang 417
The primordial fireball 423
Does the big bang explain the second law? 426
Black holes 427
The structure of space–time singularities 435
How special was the big bang? 440

8 IN SEARCH OF QUANTUM GRAVITY 450
Why quantum gravity? 450
What lies behind the Weyl curvature hypothesis? 453

Time-asymmetry in state-vector reduction 458
Hawking's box: a link with the Weyl curvature hypothesis? 465
When does the state-vector reduce? 475

9 REAL BRAINS AND MODEL BRAINS 483
What are brains actually like? 483
Where is the seat of consciousness? 492
Split-brain experiments 496
Blindsight 499
Information processing in the visual cortex 500
How do nerve signals work? 502
Computer models 507
Brain plasticity 512
Parallel computers and the 'oneness' of consciousness 514
Is there a role for quantum mechanics in brain activity? 516
Quantum computers 518
Beyond quantum theory? 520

10 WHERE LIES THE PHYSICS OF MIND? 523
What are minds for? 523
What does consciousness actually do? 529
Natural selection of algorithms? 534
The non-algorithmic nature of mathematical insight 538
Inspiration, insight, and originality 541
Non-verbality of thought 548
Animal consciousness? 550
Contact with Plato's world 552
A view of physical reality 555
Determinism and strong determinism 558
The anthropic principle 560
Tilings and quasicrystals 562
Possible relevance to brain plasticity 566
The time-delays of consciousness 568
The strange role of time in conscious perception 573
Conclusion: a child's view 578

Epilogue 583

References 584
Index 596