

PREFACE

Science is a continuously developing system: a series of models each replacing a previous less satisfactory one. If we are to understand the contemporary corpus of knowledge and critically assess future developments we must learn how we have arrived at the present position.

This book based on lectures given to postgraduate students is an attempt to tell the story of the development of certain ideas in microbiology, relating the views held at different times to the contemporaneous state of knowledge in other fields and showing how successive models grew out of the internal contradictions of their predecessors.

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