Contents

Presentation of Field "History of Science" xi
Jean-Claude DUPONT

Introduction. The Conceptual Scope of Life xiii
Jean-Claude DUPONT

Chapter 1. Theories for the Origin of Life in the 19th and 20th Centuries 1
Stéphane TIRARD

1.1. Introduction. 1
1.2. Lamarck: animalization and permanent spontaneous generation 1
1.3. Pasteur and the abandonment of spontaneous generation 3
1.4. Darwin: lack of evidence and discreet comments 5
1.5. Abiogenesis: the transition from non-life to life 6
1.6. Panspermia: eternal and universal life 7
1.7. Oparin and Haldane: hypothetical scenarios for life's emergence on Earth. 8
1.8. Prebiotic chemistry: an experimental model of primitive Earth 10
1.9. The RNA world and the first carriers of genetic information. 12
1.10. The origins of life on Earth: a historical problem with no record and the need for cross-disciplinary approaches 13
1.11. Extraterrestrial life and the development of astrobiology 15

1.12. Conclusion 17
1.13. References. 17

Chapter 2. The Reception of Evolutionary Theory in France 21
Olivier PERRU

2.1. Introduction. 21
2.2. Darwin and biological evolution 23
2.3. The reception of Darwin's theory of evolution in 19th century France 26
2.4. Henri Bergson and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin 30
2.5. The theory of evolution and French biologists in the early 20th century 33
2.6. The possibility of rejecting evolution 36
2.7. Conclusion 37
2.8. References 37

Chapter 3. The History of the Ecosystem Concept 39
Julien DELORD

3.1. Introduction. 39
3.2. The origins of the term "ecosystem" 40
3.3. From the ecosystem concept to systems ecology. 43
3.4. Ecosystem ecology as "big science" 45
3.5. The IBP's mixed record in developing ecosystem ecology. 45
3.6. Shortcomings of the Odumian ecosystem paradigm. 46
3.7. The contemporary ecosystem paradigm: "the analysis of (self-organized) ecological networks" 48
3.8. Disturbance ecology. 50
3.9. Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. 50
3.10. Conclusion and outlook. 52
3.11. References. 56

Chapter 4. The Cell: The Basic Structural and Functional Unit of Living Organisms 63
François DUCHESNEAU

4.1. Introduction. 63
4.2. Schwann's cell theory. 66

4.3. Holistic reinterpretations of Schwann's theory 70
4.4. Elementary organisms and protoplasmic individualities 77
4.5. Mitosis and meiosis revealed 80
4.6. The relativization and complexification of cell theory 84
4.7. References 86

Chapter 5. The History of the Metabolism Concept: From Its Beginnings to Maturity 89
Jean-Claude DUPONT

5.1. Introduction. 89
5.2. The emergence of the metabolism concept 90
5.2.1. Classic legacy: Lavoisier and respiration 90
5.2.2. Organic chemistry 91
5.2.3. Animal chemistry 93
5.2.4. Chemical physiology 96
5.3. Biochemistry: the science of metabolism 97
5.3.1. Cell theory and the new spirit of biochemistry. 97
5.3.2. From the yeast quarrel to enzymology. 99
5.3.3. From calorimetry to bioenergetics 100
5.4. The metabolism's golden age: cellular respiration 103
5.4.1. The question of slow oxidations 103
5.4.2. From yeast to muscular tissue: investigating glycolysis 104
5.4.3. Cellular respiration: dehydrogenation or oxidation? 107
5.4.4. The construction of the respiratory chain 108
5.4.5. The Krebs cycle 109
5.4.6. Oxidative phosphorylation at the center of the metabolism 110
5.4.7. The compartmentalization of the metabolism and mitochondria 111
5.5. Conclusion: the evolution of molecular dissection methods and the revival of the metabolism 113
5.6. References 116

Chapter 6. The History of the Gene 125
Antonine NICOGLOU

6.1. Introduction. 125
6.2. The prehistory of the gene 127
6.2.1. Classical roots 127
6.2.2. The gene before the term "gene" 129

6.3. The gene in Mendelian genetics: the probabilistic gene 131
6.3.1. The rediscovery of Mendel's laws of biological inheritance 131
6.3.2. Wilhelm Johannsen and the coining of "the gene" 133
6.3.3. The genotype and phenotype distinction 135
6.4. The gene in formal genetics: the statistical gene 137
6.4.1. The legacy of Francis Galton: strong heredity 137
6.4.2. From biometricians to statisticians: large-scale genetics 139
6.5. The gene in molecular biology: the gene in DNA nucleotides 140
6.5.1. The return of the physical gene 140
6.5.2. Genes inside a molecule 142
6.6. The gene and its surroundings: the genome 143
6.6.1. The gene disappears 143
6.6.2. The gene reappears 145
6.7. Conclusion: no longer "life's destiny", the gene as the "future of biology" 146
6.8. References 147

Chapter 7. Microcosm, Type and Individuation: Understanding Animal Development 151
Ghyslain BOLDUC

7.1. Introduction: development as the backbone of biological thought 151
7.2. The establishment of embryology as an autonomous and central morphological science 153
7.3. Darwinian reform of developmental history 156
7.4. The birth of experimental embryology 159
7.5. The rise of experimental embryology: gradients, organizers and fields 161
7.6. From embryology to developmental biology 164
7.7. Conclusion: questioning development through evolution, variation and individuality 174
7.8. References 176

Chapter 8. A Conceptual History of Immunology 183
Alfred I. TAUBER

8.1. Introduction 183
8.2. Historical antecedents 184
8.3. Two visions of immunity 186

8.4. The immune self 188
8.5. Immunology and ecology 191
8.6. Systems biology 194
8.7. Conclusion: on identity 196
8.8. References 198

Chapter 9. Human Brains: Representations, Explorations and Stimulations 203
Mathilde LANCELOT

9.1. Introduction: the brain as a timeless object of research 203
9.2. Opening up the brain: explorations, motivations and instruments 205
9.2.1. Early explorations. 205
9.2.2. Explorations: comparison, localization and control 206
9.2.3. Technological development as a condition of possibility for explorations of the brain 209
9.3. Stimulating the brain: electricity, mapping and implants 212
9.3.1. Preliminary stimulations: the power of electricity 213
9.3.2. The brain as an electrical target. 214
9.3.3. Mapping and targeting localizations 215
9.4. Conclusion: the brain as a "social phenomenon". 216
9.5. References 218

Chapter 10. Modern Medicine and the Sciences: A History of Ruptures 223
Mathieu ARMINJON

10.1. Introduction: two ruptures 223
10.2. The history of medical rationality as told by key events. 225
10.2.1. Modern medicine: an "epistemological seism". 225
10.2.2. The "heroic century" of medicine. 227
10.2.3. The bacteriological "revolution" 228
10.2.4. The birth of endocrinology: physiology's "golden age" 231
10.2.5. Medicine: post-war to present 232
10.3. Historiographical rupture and the medical revolution 234
10.3.1. The critical turn of the "McKeown thesis" 234
10.3.2. From the biomedical sciences to the sociomedical sciences . . . 237
10.3.3. Evidence-based medicine 238
10.3.4. Disciplining a profession 240

10.4. Conclusion: a critical history of medical rationality 242
10.5. References. 244

List of Authors 249

Index of Things 251

Index of Names 255

Summary of Volume 1 263

Summary of Volume 2 269