

CONTENTS

PREFACE	page vii
INTRODUCTION	xi
I SPACE AND TIME	
1. <i>Absolute and relative space</i>	1
2. <i>Absolute and relative time</i>	9
3. <i>Time and change</i>	14
II MATTER	
1. <i>The mechanistic theory: conceptual developments</i>	21
2. <i>Plato's geometrical theory and Aristotle's objections</i>	29
3. <i>The qualitative theory</i>	34
4. <i>Neo-Platonic revival of the geometrical theory</i>	44
III SUBLUNAR MECHANICS	
1. <i>The laws of motion</i>	62
2. <i>The impetus</i>	70
3. <i>Natural motion and weight</i>	76
4. <i>Motion of continuous masses</i>	89
5. <i>Perturbations</i>	93
IV MODES OF PHYSICAL ACTION	
1. <i>Local action and action at a distance</i>	99
2. <i>Potentiality and fitness</i>	104
3. <i>Actuality and action</i>	110
4. <i>The use of philosophical principles</i>	117
V CELESTIAL PHYSICS	
1. <i>Xenarchus against the aether</i>	122
2. <i>Ptolemy: the struggle for a unitary picture</i>	133
3. <i>Proclus and the Ptolemaic system</i>	145

CONTENTS

VI THE UNITY OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

1. *John Philoponus and his conception of the universe* 154
2. *Philoponus' arguments and Simplicius' objections* 158
3. *God and Nature* 166

NOTES 176

SOURCES 179

INDEX OF PASSAGES QUOTED 181

GENERAL INDEX 185