Contents

List of illustrations vi
Foreword by Dame Gillian Beer vii
Preface xix
Acknowledgments xxvii
Symbols, abbreviations, and conventions xxviii
1 Friends 1
2 Marriage 19
3 Children 35
   by Dr Charissa Varma
4 Scientific wives and allies 50
5 Observing plants 67
6 Companion animals 90
7 Insects and angels 105
8 Observing humans 122
9 Editors 136
10 Writers and critics 148
11 Religion 166
   by Dr Paul White
12 Travellers 183
13 Servants and governesses 194
14 Ascent of woman 210
List of letters and provenances 229
Biographical notes 241
Bibliography and further reading 261
Index 267