

Contents



<i>Preface to this edition by</i> MARC LANGE	<i>page</i> xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiii
Part I A critique of the Regularity theory	1
1 Introductory	3
1 The importance of our topic	3
2 A possible difficulty in investigating our topic	5
3 Assumptions	7
4 The Regularity theory	9
2 Critique of the Regularity theory (1): The problem of accidental uniformities	10
1 The Naive Regularity theory of law	10
2 Classification of criticisms of the Regularity theory	11
3 Single-case uniformities	12
4 How to pass from single-case uniformities to multi-case uniformities	14
5 How to pass from local uniformities to Humean uniformities	15
6 Unrealized physical possibilities	16
7 Humean uniformities with non-existent subjects	17
3 Critique of the Regularity theory (2)	22
1 Spatio-temporally limited laws	22
2 Local uniformities as laws	24
3 Infinitely qualified laws	25
4 Probabilistic laws	27
5 Probabilistic laws: the retreat to Positivism	32
6 Functional laws	35
4 Critique of the Regularity theory (3)	36
1 Lack of inner connection	36
2 Laws of nature as Principles of Explanation	37
3 The Paradoxes of Confirmation	38
4 The Problem of Counterfactuals	43
5 The Problem of Induction	48

viii

5	Can the Regularity theory be sophisticated?	56
1	Preliminary	56
2	Epistemic restriction upon uniformities	57
3	The Resiliency solution	60
4	Systematic restrictions upon uniformities	61
	Part II Laws of nature as relations between universals	69
6	Laws of nature as relations between universals	71
1	The need for universals	71
2	The theory of universals	75
3	A first formulation	78
4	Laws as universals	81
5	Causation as a relation between particulars	86
6	Necessitation, universals and laws	89
7	Advantages and some disadvantages of conceiving of laws of nature as relations between universals	92
8	Braithwaite's and Popper's argument	99
7	Functional laws	103
8	Uninstantiated laws	109
1	Tooley's cases	109
2	Tooley's conclusions	110
3	Tooley's cases solved by the introduction of powers?	113
4	A sceptical treatment of Tooley's cases	115
5	Uninstantiated laws with nomically impossible antecedents	117
9	Probabilistic laws	119
1	The form of probabilistic laws	119
2	Probabilistic laws as probabilities of necessitation	122
3	Other types of probabilistic laws	126
10	Further considerations concerning the form of laws	128
1	Scientific identification	128
2	Laws with universal scope	131
3	Are there any Exclusion laws?	134
4	Iron laws and oaken laws	137
5	Disjunctive laws	140
6	Do laws always link the properties of the same object?	143
7	Formal properties of necessitation	145
11	Are the laws of nature necessary or contingent?	148
1	Arguments for the necessity of laws	149
2	Strong Necessity	152

	ix
3 Weak Necessity	155
4 Uninstantiated laws	158
Conclusions	161
<i>Works cited</i>	163
<i>Index</i>	166