

Preface

I first came to Erice in 1966, to lecture at the fourth of the annual schools on subnuclear physics organized by Nino Zichichi. I was charmed by the beauty of Erice, fascinated by the thick layers of Sicilian culture and history, and terrified by the iron rule with which Nino kept students and faculty in line. In a word, I was won over, and I returned to Erice every year or two thereafter, to talk of what was past, or passing, or to come, at least insofar as it touched on subnuclear theory. Eight of these lectures, or more properly lecture series, are collected here.

No attempt has been made to bring the lectures up to date. Typographical errors, when spotted, have been corrected, and references to works to be published have been changed to references to published works. (I thank Hugh Osborne for taking on this dull task.) Otherwise, these are unaltered reprints of the original publications.

Numerous debts are acknowledged in the individual lectures, but there is one overriding debt that must be acknowledged here. None of this would have existed were it not for Nino Zichichi. Of course, he is the creator and director of the subnuclear school, and of the International Center for Scientific Culture ‘Ettore Majorana’ which encompasses it, but, more than that, he is personally responsible for each and every one of these lectures. The lecture notes would never have been written were it not for his blandishments and threats, transmitted in a fusillade of urgent cablegrams and transatlantic phone calls at odd hours of the morning. This book may be the least of his many accomplishments, but one of his accomplishments it is, and it should be counted as such.

Finally: These lectures span fourteen years, from 1966 to 1979. This was a great time to be a high-energy theorist, the period of the famous triumph of quantum field theory. And what a triumph it was, in the old sense of the word: a glorious victory parade, full of wonderful things

brought back from far places to make the spectator gasp with awe and laugh with joy. I hope some of that awe and joy has been captured here.

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Sidney Coleman

Acknowledgements

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