Editorial
Behind the appearances 203
R. Fox

Research articles
Philomaths, Herschel, and the myth of the self-taught man 207
E. Winterburn
Seventeenth-century ‘treasure’ found in Royal Society archives: the Ludus helmontii and the stone disease 227
A. M. Alfonso-Goldfarb, M. H. M. Ferraz & P. M. Rattansi
Margaret Cavendish and the Royal Society 245
E. Wilkins
Thomas Birch’s ‘weekly letter’ (1741–66): correspondence and history in the mid-eighteenth-century Royal Society 261
M. Ellis
A brief history of Lord Rutherford’s radium 279
N. Todd

Recollections
Margaret Thatcher’s influence on British science 301
G. Guise

Reports
Einstein in Britain: a portrait 311
J. McManus