CONTENTS

List of Abbreviations	ix
Preface	xi
Introduction	3
PART ONE	
THE SOCIAL CALCULUS	17
Chapter 1. Statistics as Social Science The Politics of Political Arithmetic The Number of a Dynamic Society	18 18
The Numbers of a Dynamic Society	23
Chapter 2. The Laws That Govern Chaos	40
Quetelet and the Numerical Regularities of Society	41
Liberal Politics and Statistical Laws	55
Chapter 3. From Nature's Urn to the Insurance Office	71
PART TWO	
THE SUPREME LAW OF UNREASON	91
Chapter 4. The Errors of Art and Nature	93
Quetelet: Error and Variation	100
Chapter 5. Social Law and Natural Science	110
Molecules and Social Physics	111
Galton and the Reality of Variation	128
PART THREE	
THE SCIENCE OF UNCERTAINTY	149
Chapter 6. Statistical Law and Human Freedom	151
The Opponents of Statistics	152
Statistics and Free Will	162
The Science of Diversity	171
Statistik: Between Nature and History	177
Chapter 7. Time's Arrow and Statistical Uncertainty in Physics	
and Philosophy	193

Contents

Buckle's Laws and Maxwell's Demon	194
Boltzmann, Statistics, and Irreversibility	208
Peirce's Rejection of Necessity	219
PART FOUR	
POLYMATHY AND DISCIPLINE	231
Chapter 8. The Mathematics of Statistics	233
Lexis's Index of Dispersion	240
Edgeworth: Mathematics and Economics	255
Chapter 9. The Roots of Biometrical Statistics	270
Galton's Biometrical Analogies	270
Regression and Correlation	286
Pearson and Mathematical Biometry	296
Conclusion	315
Index	321