



FIGURE 2.22. George Gamow suggested a physical basis for the genetic code. The double helix contains pockets (*brown*) that are surrounded by four bases (*blue*; labeled A, B, C, D). Gamow showed that these pockets can be surrounded by 20 combinations of bases and so could potentially code for 20 amino acids.

2.22 top, courtesy of CSHL Library and Archives; **2.22 bottom**, redrawn from Gamow G., *Nature* **173**: 318, © 1954 Macmillan, www.nature.com