

Preface

The study of the higher level neural control of behavior has been dominated by the theory that many aspects of cerebral activity are functionally organized in accordance with psychological concepts such as perception, attention, motivation, memory, emotion or cognition. I believe that this entire approach is misguided because it is based on false assumptions derived from the speculations of the ancient Greek philosophers. The series of essays in this book discusses the implications of a mentalistic approach to the study of brain function and points out the absence of significant progress associated with it. The alternative that is proposed is that we abandon attempts to discover the neural basis of mind as classically conceived and turn instead to an analysis of the neural mechanisms that control behavior. This broad topic touches on a variety of traditional fields. Therefore, the material discussed in this book may be of interest, not only to neuroscientists and psychologists, but also to animal behaviorists, anthropologists, evolutionary biologists, neurologists, philosophers, psychiatrists, and others interested in the general field of the brain, behavior and the mind.

The Evolving Brain

The Mind and the Neural Control of Behavior

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