Though superficial at times, his treatment touches on the broad aspects of present knowledge about the brain. Topics include vision, pain perception, free will, and consciousness. The anatomy he presents ranges in scale from individual neurons to the neuronal organization within the cerebral cortex. He shows how chaos and uncertainty dominate the dynamics of the physical systems. With such relationships among neurons one still marvels at the fact that two people can ever think alike. Harth has the ability to offer concrete facts at the same time he conveys wonderment at the complexity and compatability of neural function.

He reviews both monistic and dualistic concepts and discusses mind-brain interaction with no pretense of reaching a clear definition. He conveys his understanding of the dynamics of the nervous system—or any living system for that matter—whose molecules are in constant flux. The substances that were me one minute have changed the next.

Knowledge about the brain is also changing so rapidly that no book can have all the latest information. For example, Harth speaks about human features coming in pairs. He states that with few exceptions all subcortical structures are divided into "two laterally displaced, mirror symmetrical parts." Evidence provided only this past year has shown well-defined asymmetry within several brain structures, with asymmetry perhaps being the rule rather than the exception. In spite of the impossibility in keeping up with the rapidly changing knowledge in neuroscience, this book offers an excellent stepping stone along the way toward understanding the brain in a respectful, scientific sense.

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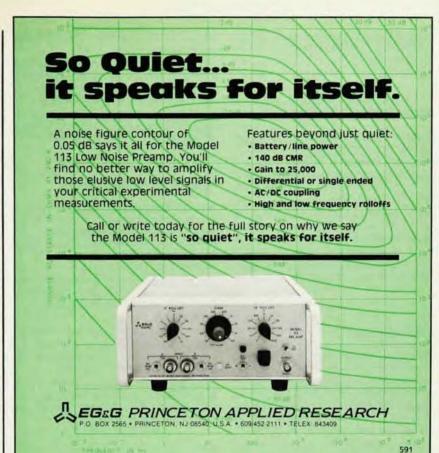
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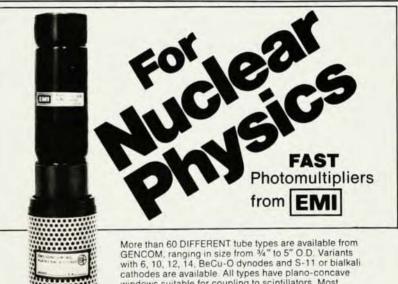
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