The New Brain Sciences

Perils and Prospects

The last twenty years have seen an explosion of research and developments in the neurosciences. Indeed, some have called this first decade of the twenty-first century ‘the decade of the mind’. An all-encompassing term, neuroscience covers such fields as biology, psychology, neurology, psychiatry and philosophy and include anatomy, physiology, molecular biology, genetics and behaviour. It is now a major industry with billions of dollars of funding invested from both public and private sectors.

Huge progress has been made in our understanding of the brain and its functions. However, with progress comes controversy, responsibility and dilemma. The New Brain Sciences: Perils and Prospects examines the implications of recent discoveries in terms of our sense of individual responsibility and personhood. Aimed at neuroscientists, psychologists, philosophers, medical professionals, students and the general public alike, it is an attempt to kick-start a discussion of where neuroscience is going.

Sir Dai Rees is Knight Bachelor, a Fellow of the Royal Society, an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and a founding Fellow of the Royal Academy of Medicine. He was President of the European Science Foundation [1993–9] and Secretary and Chief Executive of the UK Medical Research Council (1987–96).

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The New Brain Sciences
Perils and Prospects

EDITED BY

DAI REES AND STEVEN ROSE
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