

POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NENCKI INSTITUTE OF EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY

THE FRONTAL GRANULAR CORTEX AND BEHAVIOR

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P R E F A C E

In August 1962 an International Symposium on "The frontal granular cortex and behavior" was held at Pennsylvania State University; the conference had been initiated by Professor J. M. Warren of the University, with advice from Professor K. Akert of Zurich and other colleagues. The symposium brought together a number of scientists who were actively working on the problems of structure and function of prefrontal cortex, its role in learning and in other aspects of behavior.

The transactions of that meeting, which had been considered unusually successful by its participants, were subsequently published in book form under the editorship of Professors Warren and Akert, and the resulting volume has served throughout the sixties as a major source for anyone who tried to gain an overview of the state of the frontal-lobe problem. But the field has moved rapidly, and this had been anticipated by the participants at the Pennsylvania meeting: at the end of that meeting, they agreed that another meeting should be held after a number of years, and that Warsaw might be a suitable site for such a follow-up symposium.

The XXVth International Congress of Physiological Sciences, held in Munich in the summer of 1971, furnished an opportunity for carrying this intention out, for it had been decided by those planning the International Congress to arrange a number of satellite symposia on special topics in various European countries, shortly before and after the Congress. Accordingly a satellite symposium on the frontal lobes was proposed by one of us, Professor Jerzy Konorski, to the International Union of Physiological Sciences, and they readily agreed that such a meeting should be held and that it should be held in Poland, where the Nencki Institute had been committing many of its resources to the investigation of frontal-lobe problems for so many years.

The detailed plans for the satellite symposium on the frontal lobes were then formulated by Professor Konorski, in consultation with Dr H. E. Rosvold and Professor H.-L. Teuber. From the outset, the intention was to follow the format of the original Pennsylvania symposium as closely as possible, and this is reflected in the fact that the present symposium bears the same title as the original one in Pennsylvania. In addition, the present symposium, just as the earlier one, focusses on the relations between frontal structures and functions, and

both symposia deal with comparative analyses of frontal-lobe function in rodents, carnivores and primates, including man. Likewise, the present symposium, just as the previous one, raises the question of a possible parcellation of the frontal lobes, based on anatomic, physiologic and behavioral techniques.

In order to provide enough time for the presentation of individual views and for their discussion, the entire first week of August, 1971 was devoted to the meeting. The Polish Academy of Sciences generously provided a setting free from distractions, by permitting the meeting to be held in the secluded and retreat-like atmosphere of Jabłonna, near Warszawa, where all of the members of the conference were housed throughout the week. We would like to express our special gratitude to Mr. W. Dąbrowski, the Administrative Director of the Nencki Institute, for his skilful handling of local arrangements in Jabłonna. Subsidies for the living expenses of non-Polish participants were kindly provided by the IUPS, and IBRO-UNESCO, who co-sponsored the symposium.

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