



Hand Function and the Neocortex

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Book Condition: New. Publisher/Verlag: Springer, Berlin | Summary of a Satellite Meeting of the 29th Congress of the International Union of Physiological Sciences, Held in Melbourne, August 24-26, 1983 | To watch a curious young macaque explore and manipulate his immediate surroundings must surely delight and amaze us all. The monkey selects a particular object for scrutiny, reaches out and grasps it, handles it delicately with the fingers or more forcibly with the hand, scans the various surfaces with the finger pads, and finally identifies it. If we compare this monkey's adroitness and discriminative capacities with our own, at once we have a concise statement of important biological similarities and differences among primates. While there are species differences in the functional anatomy of the hand, in tactile sensibility, and in the control of hand movements, these are relatively minor. The real difference in the dexterity of the two species relates to the complexity of the task that is executed: no monkey, and for that matter only one man in a century, paints a Guernica, although an astute investigator can readily teach the monkey to flourish a brush and paint a few strokes. The goal of the symposium, of...



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