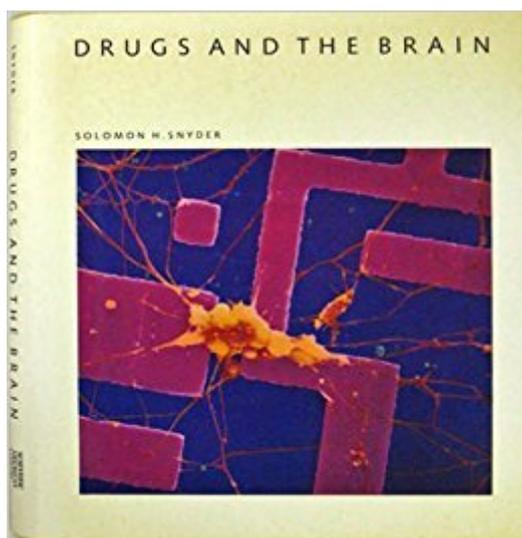


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Drugs And The Brain (Scientific American Library)



Synopsis

"This is an admirable book. With his background in psychiatry and neuropharmacology and with his lively awareness of the history and social relevance of his topic, Snyder is almost uniquely placed to write about this subject. Though by no means the first popular account of neuropharmacology, it is without doubt the best one so far." Times Higher Education Supplement --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

This book is short, accessible, and fully illustrated. It is a particularly compelling technical primer for the intelligent but non-initiated reader. The logical flow of the book reflects the history of drug use and pharmacology research, both increasing in sophistication over time, and is topically organized by the major classes of psychoactives. Subjects touched upon include the use of drugs in religious ceremony, Freud's cocaine habit, the 60s, and the modern era of specialized mood-altering drugs. The author is chair of Neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland and one of the top three most cited scientists in the life science. It is a pleasure to read, and a springboard for further investigation in the areas of psychopharmacology, neuroscience or psychiatry.

Many of the Scientific American Library books are gems and this isosemantically titled book by Dr.

Snyder is no exception. The books I have read from this series are uniformly short, sweet and to the point. Drugs, per se, are after all essentially what brain function is. Drugs are our personalities, our emotions (not to mention all other vertebrates, especially the class of mammals to which we belong). There is no better way to come to understand psychology, physiology, the cognitive sciences, and one could argue, metaphysics, than by examining the action of drugs and the brain; the primary distinction being intrinsic, naturally produced drugs as opposed to extrinsic, store (or street) bought ones. Dr. Snyder runs through the litany of the common classes of drugs: the opiates and their natural countersubstance, the endorphins--the stimulants and their action of dopamine reuptake blockage--the hallucinogens and their concomitant serotonergic pathways--and some of the more popular psychopharmacologicals specific to schizophrenia, depression, and anxiety. This book is a well written, historically informative, crash course in pharmacology for the lay reader, and remains a valuable reference long after its initial reading.

Great reading coming from a person who has been on an antidepressant rollercoaster for over a year. Along with misc. pills. It is a great book to help understand what goes on and why this antidepressant quit working and this one the Doc won't prescribe and other reasons for it being called a "Roller-Coaster Ride for the Brain"

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