

Contents

A note to the reader	page x
Preface	xi
Introduction	I
Part I: Introducing consciousness	II
1 As sweet by any other name? Consciousness, self-consciousness and conscience	13
Introduction	13
The history of ‘conscience’ – and her cousins	14
‘What do you mean by. . .?’	16
<i>Consciousness</i> 16 • <i>Self-consciousness</i> 21 • <i>Conscience</i> 30	
<i>A note on awareness</i> 31	
Consciousness in other tongues	32
Consciousness in prospect	35
2 ‘The nerves in the brain, oh damn’em’: a sketch of the human nervous system	37
Introduction	37
The simple nervous system	38
<i>Cells</i> 38 • <i>Neurons</i> 42 • <i>Neuronal neighbours</i> 44 • <i>Interconnections</i> 45	
<i>Simplicity embodied</i> 47	
The complex nervous system	47
<i>Neurons – and their networks</i> 48 • <i>Interconnections redrawn</i> 67	
Conclusion: the nerves in the brain	73
Part II: The capacity for consciousness	75
3 The springs of awareness: the structural basis of consciousness (i)	77
Introduction	77
The electricity of the brain	78
<i>On the electroencephalogram of man</i> 78 • <i>The EEG today</i> 84	
<i>The patterning of conscious states</i> 87 • <i>Cognitive potentials</i> 91	
Controlling consciousness	95
<i>Epidemic stupor</i> 95 • <i>A wonderful net</i> 97 • <i>The chemistry of consciousness</i> 99	
<i>The place where consciousness dwells</i> 102	
Why do we sleep?	105
Conclusion: the conditions for awareness	109

4	The brothers of death: pathologies of consciousness	111
	Introduction	111
	Faints, fits and funny turns	112
	<i>Faints</i> 112 • <i>Fits</i> 117 • <i>Funny turns</i> 123	
	Opium, alcohol and other anaesthetics	124
	<i>Opium</i> 124 • <i>Alcohol and other anaesthetics</i> 126	
	<i>Awareness under anaesthesia</i> 130	
	Varieties of coma	132
	Hysteria and trance	135
	Did you have a good night?	138
	<i>Insomnia</i> 138 • <i>Hypersomnia</i> 140 • <i>Parasomnia</i> 142	
	The measurement of awareness	144
	Conclusion: anatomising consciousness	149
	Part III: The contents of consciousness	153
5	From darkness into light: the structural basis of consciousness (ii)	155
	Introduction	155
	Light and the evolution of vision	156
	<i>Light</i> 156 • <i>Light and life</i> 157 • <i>Life and vision</i> 158	
	The retina: sensitive pigment	163
	<i>Capturing quanta</i> 163 • <i>Communicating contrast</i> 166	
	Analysis and integration: the cortical visual areas	168
	<i>En route to the visual cortex</i> 168 • <i>Area 17</i> 169 • <i>Multiple maps</i> 172	
	Seeing things	175
	<i>The wood from the trees</i> 175 • <i>Binding</i> 178 • <i>Constancy</i> 179	
	<i>Recognition</i> 181 • <i>Imagination</i> 183 • <i>The roving eye</i> 184	
	Paying attention: did you see the gorilla?	186
	The beholder's share	190
	Invisible destinations	192
	Conclusion: image and action	196
6	'I cannot see you Charley, I am blind': clear-sighted blindness and blindsight	197
	Introduction	197
	The famished eye	199
	<i>Molyneux's question</i> 199 • <i>The ripening of vision</i> 201 • <i>Novel sensations</i> 206	
	Mindblindness: the agnosias	208
	<i>Apperceptive agnosia</i> 209 • <i>Associative agnosia</i> 213	
	Neglect	221
	Blindsight and residual vision	224
	<i>The absence of all sensation</i> 224 • <i>The sound of distant gunfire</i> 228	
	<i>Why is blindsight blind?</i> 229	
	Hallucination: 'There's a seagull on your shoulder'	230
	Exquisite correlations	233
	Conjuring the rainbow	236
	Conclusion: vision and consciousness	238

Part IV: The origins of consciousness	241
7 The history of everything	243
Introduction	243
First things	244
The birth of life	246
Begetting the brain	249
<i>Continuity</i> 250 • <i>Change</i> 254	
The tree of man	258
From biology to history	262
The coming of consciousness	266
<i>The uses of awareness</i> 266 • <i>The souls of animals</i> 270	
A Darwinian conclusion: evolving awareness	273
Part V: Consciousness considered	277
8 Scientific theories of consciousness	279
Introduction	279
The story so far: sight, memory and action	280
A methodological wrinkle: the necessity for report	284
The ‘where’ and ‘how’ of conscious vision	287
<i>Where?</i> 288 • <i>How?</i> 293	
What consciousness <i>does</i> : the ghost in the virtual machine	296
Getting to know you better: social theories of consciousness	298
Conclusion	300
9 The nature of consciousness	303
Introduction	303
Experience and the brain	303
<i>Two sketches on a sunny day</i> 303 • <i>A war of intuitions</i> 305	
<i>What is it like to be . . .</i> 307 • <i>‘-isms’ enough for all</i> 312	
<i>Night at the end of the tunnel?</i> 323	
Other minds	325
<i>Human minds</i> 325 • <i>Animal minds</i> 327 • <i>Manufactured minds</i> 328	
<i>Alien minds: a midsummer night’s dream</i> 334	
Human freedom	336
<i>The prospect of prediction</i> 336 • <i>Solving for three bodies</i> 337	
<i>Che sarà sarà? (what will be, will be?)</i> 338 • <i>Free fall</i> 338	
Conclusion: the matter of the mind	341
Epilogue	343
Glossary	348
Notes	364
Suggestions for further reading	388
List of figures and tables	390
Index	396