The Integrated Mind

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To DIANA

Preface

In this book we are trying to illuminate the persistent and nagging questions of how mind, life, and the essence of being relate to brain mechanisms. We do that not because we have a commitment to bear witness to the boring issue of reductionism but because we want to know more about what it's all about. How, indeed, does the brain work? How does it allow us to love, hate, see, cry, suffer, and ultimately understand Kepler's laws?

We try to uncover clues to these staggering questions by considering the results of our studies on the bisected brain. Several years back, one of us wrote a book with that title, and the approach was to describe how brain and behavior are affected when one takes the brain apart. In the present book, we are ready to put it back together, and go beyond, for we feel that split-brain studies are now at the point of contributing to an understanding of the workings of the integrated mind.

We are grateful to Dr. Donald Wilson of the Dartmouth Medical School for allowing us to test his patients. We would also like to thank our past and present colleagues, including Richard Nakamura, Gail Risse, Pamela Greenwood, Andy Francis, Andrea Elberger, Nick Brecha, Lynn Bengston, and Sally Springer, who have been involved in various facets of the experimental studies on the bisected brain described in this book. Thanks also to Ellen Friedman, who suffered through the typing and retyping. Finally, and most importantly, our profound thanks to the patients who continue to give their time and energy to our enterprise. They have taught us a lot more about life than we have been able to set forth in this book.

Michael S. Gazzaniga and Joseph E. LeDoux
New York, N.Y.

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