Prologue

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Since the disclosure of Goddard's phenomenon of kindling in 1967, a number of laboratories across Canada have labored to confirm and extend his original observation and to elucidate its underlying mechanism. Now, scientists south of the border and across the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans are interested in the phenomenon, and the amount of information available on this topic is quite diverse as may be seen from the index of the kindling literature. The aim of this Symposium is to provide a meeting ground for cross fertilization of ideas among scientists actively engaged in the study of kindling and to compile up-to-date information in a comprehensive manner so that the Symposium Proceedings will become a source of ready reference for future investigators.

In the preparation of the Proceedings for publication, considerable effort was made to clarify the ambiguous or unclear parts of the taped discussion, and most of the ambiguities were referred back to the discussants. On a number of minor points, however, corrections were made without further consultation due to a shortage of time, the distances involved, and the intervention of the summer holidays. If there are any misquotations or misrepresentations, I am solely responsible, and I would be grateful if the readers will notify me if such is the case.

Only published papers, and papers already accepted for publication have been assembled at the end of the Proceedings in a comprehensive index on the subject of kindling. (Abstracts and papers presented at meetings which have not been published are not included in this index.) Should there be any omissions from this bibliography, my sincere apologies are extended, along with a request to kindly inform me of them. Hopefully one can do better on subsequent occasions.

During the past eight years, vigorous investigation of this kindling phenomenon by scientists of varied backgrounds has amply confirmed Goddard's original contention that the kindling preparation can be used as a neural model of learning and memory as well as of epilepsy. One can safely predict that in the future this robust phenomenon will attract the interest of many scientists across disciplines and across national borders. This is particularly significant since the history of research in the neurosciences with a truly comprehensive approach is relatively new, although brain research as a multidisciplinary endeavour has a long and distinguished tradition.

As a Canadian it is particularly gratifying to me that the compilation of the information on the present state of the art of this uniquely Canadian phenomenon will find its forum in the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences. In this regard, I am grateful for the interest and cooperation of Dr. R. T. Ross, Editor of the Journal.

At this Symposium, I was very pleased to see that practically all the scientists who have contributed significantly to this phenomenon were here. Among those scientists who were unable to come — Dr. Delgado of Madrid, Dr. Naquet of Paris, Drs. Halberg and Bates of London, and Dr. Rodin of Detroit — all sent their best wishes to us. Also, I would like to mention that Dr. David Bates, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of British Columbia wished us a highly successful meeting.

I am grateful to Dr. Kenneth Cartwright of Ciba-Geigy of Canada, for his enthusiastic assistance which made this Symposium a reality.

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