

Consciousness.

This seems the next great biological challenge. Here though the danger is that we accept the science as proving a mechanistic explanation before we truly understand the problem. Indeed I do not see any prospect of explaining in molecular terms the meaning we give to the chemical changes perceived by any thought or action of our will. There are many ways of testing how the sensory data is built up but none as to its perception at the conscious level. Take the simplest concept the activity of a neurone(s) in the resting or sleep state and the active conscious state. No doubt different molecular activities are taking place and even if a complete description of these could be made we would not be able to locate any specific perceptions, we would not from the neuronal activity be able to predict the actual thoughts (in dream or awake). We could only say this activity is associated with dreaming or being conscious. Or this activity is associated with hunger, thirst, arousal, fear, pain, depression, schizophrenia, bi-polar illness, and in illness this may give us an opportunity to intervene at the receptor level.

While the brain uses much energy in collecting, storing and executing the sensory data my hypothesis is that the actual thought is an energy free system and therefore freed from all physical theory as presently conceived. The last word on this ticklish problem is Einstein's "everything can be explained scientifically, but it would be without meaning, like describing a Beethoven symphony as variations in wave pressure".

However I am still not quite happy with my own position and will return to this problem.