

QUOTATIONS

ON THE SENSES

. with regard to hearing, it is strange of him (Empedocles) to imagine that he has really explained how creatures hear, when he has ascribed the process to internal sounds and assumed that the ear produces a sound within, like a bell. By means of this internal sound we might hear sounds without, but how should we hear this internal sound itself? The old problem would still confront us.

—Theophrastus, c. 300 B.C. (as translated in Stratton, G. E. *Theophrastus and the Greek physiological psychology before Aristotle*. New York: Macmillan, 1917. P. 85.)

Suppose someone were to coat the occipital lobes of the brain with a special photographic emulsion which, when developed, yielded a reasonable copy of a current visual stimulus. In many quarters this would be regarded as a triumph in the physiology of vision. Yet nothing could be more disastrous, for we should have to start all over again and ask how the organism sees a picture in its occipital cortex. . . .

—B. F. Skinner (in Behaviorism at fifty, *Science*, 1963, 140, 951-958.)