

29 October 1966

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NOTE FOR:

Thank you very much for sending the articles by Biernson and MacNichol. MacNichol certainly is light on his feet and managed to hide behind Rushton who does not provide a very good screen.

Unhappily neither Biernson nor Rushton are arguing over the same issue, a not uncommon thing in this field. Biernson should be commended for a thoughtful electronic model whether it is functionally consistent with the human visual system or not. Notice that neither Biernson nor Rushton attempt to distinguish between a functional and an anatomical (bionic) model. Rushton's description of the visual process from the neurological point of view is one which is rather commonly held but is open to serious question as Biernson points out. My reaction is a plague on both their uses.

I think Biernson comes out better in the controversy than does Rushton. However, I would like to point out that Biernson's explanation of the photo detection and feedback process does not appear to take into account redundancy if I understand him correctly. This is not to criticize his model nor to say he is wrong. If he is right, however, this lack of redundancy would be unique among the natural sensory systems.

Thanks again for forwarding the papers. I am sending copies to

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Attachments
Articles