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## Madness and Memory: The Discovery of PrionsA New Biological Principle of Diseases

By Prusiner, Stanley B.

Yale. 1 Cloth(s), 2014. hard. Book Condition: New. Neurologist Stanley Prusiner here tells the remarkable story of his Nobel Prizewinning discovery of prionsinfectious proteins that replicate and ravage the brains of animals suffering from scrapie and mad cow disease, and humans with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, yet surprisingly contain no genetic material. Their very existence was vehemently denied by other neurologists before Prusiner's theories were proven, and he recounts the frustrations and rewards of his years of research, with portraits of his peers as they raced to discover the causes of fatal brain diseases. "Stanley Prusiner is a brilliant scientist whose boldness and tenacity enabled him, against all odds and despite near-universal skepticism, to discover and prove the importance of a new class of disease-producing agentsprionsa discovery as fundamental as that of bacteria and viruses. Prions, by subverting the brain's own proteins, may play a crucial role in Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other neurodegenerative diseasesand perhaps afford a clue to their prevention. Madness and Memory is the story of one of the most important discoveries in recent medical history, and it is also a vivid and compelling portrait of a life in science."Oliver Sacks 320.



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