

BOOK REVIEWS

Burnell R. Brown, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., Editor

Physiology of Spinal Anesthesia. Third edition. By NICHOLAS M. GREENE. Baltimore, Williams and Wilkins, 1981. Pages: 278. Price: \$32.00

Spinal anesthesia, long a controversial technique, is today an accepted—no, an essential—part of the anesthesiologist's repertoire. Previous editions of Dr. Greene's monograph surely deserve credit for helping to establish the firm scientific basis upon which the clinical administration of spinal anesthesia relies.

The third edition, in the tradition established in preceding editions, reviews the literature concerning physiologic effects of spinal anesthesia. The format is the same as that of the second edition (1969), with a chapter on each of the major organ systems, as well as a brief final chapter comparing physiologic responses to spinal and epidural anesthesia. Each chapter has been expanded and updated in the current edition. New information is especially apparent in the sections dealing with pharmacokinetics of local anesthetics in the subarachnoid space, cardiovascular effects of sympathetic denervation, and physiologic effects of spinal anesthesia on the fetus.

As before, Dr. Greene has done a superlative job in presenting a wealth of information on physiologic consequences of spinal anesthesia in humans. The print is large and easy to read, tables and figures are generally easy to interpret, references at the end of each chapter are extensive, and the index is usefully composed. This reviewer can offer but a few minor criticisms. The lengthy discussion of density and spe-

cific gravity in Chapter 1 is heavy reading and a little confusing. Likewise, the reporting of some values for P_{CO_2} in kPa while giving others in mmHg (Chapter 3) tends to compromise readability. On page 35, "post-spinal anesthetics" should obviously be "post-spinal headaches." Finally, we found the style of citation of references (by names and dates, within sentences) to interrupt the flow of text; numeric citations would be less distracting.

For the clinician or investigator seeking information on physiologic responses to sympathetic denervation or to spinal anesthesia, this monograph is superb. The student or clinician seeking a "how-to" book for administration of spinal anesthesia should look elsewhere. Clinical caveats abound, to be sure, but they are scattered widely throughout the text; complications of spinal anesthesia, such as headache, are mentioned only incidentally. We would certainly enjoy reading a companion volume entitled "Clinical Aspects of Spinal Anesthesia" by Nicholas M. Greene.

Spinal anesthesia can claim over 80 years of clinical usefulness. Scholarly texts such as this one do much to insure continued popularity for this versatile technique.

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Books Received

Title & Edition	Author/Editor	Publisher		
		Address, Name, Year	Pages	Price
Review of Medical Physiology Tenth edition	W. F. Ganong	Los Altos, California Lange Medical Publications 1981	628	\$17.00 (paper- back)
<i>This volume can be utilized by those who have some prior knowledge of anatomy, chemistry, and biochemistry as a summary of relevant anatomic considerations of human physiology.</i>				
Physiology of Spinal Anesthesia Third Edition	Nicholas M. Greene, M.D.	Baltimore, Maryland The Williams & Wilkins Company 1981	278	\$32.00
<i>The new edition of this book incorporates, analyzes, and reviews the new materials and concepts developed in spinal anesthesia since 1969. We will also find the older information re-evaluated and updated.</i>				
Neurophysiology IV (International Review of Physiology, Volume 25)	Robert Porter (Editor) Arthur C. Guyton (Series Editor)	Baltimore, Maryland University Park Press 1981	256	\$34.50
<i>This book is primarily to provide a perspective and critical evaluation of the material covered. The authors have provided a selective guide to the pertinent literature and should prove helpful as an overview for determination of further study.</i>				
Oral Surgery in Dental Practice	Eberhard Kruger Philip Worthington	Chicago, Illinois Quintessence Publishing Company, Inc. 1981	392	\$68.00
<i>This volume contains basic information in oral surgery for dentists. It also includes significant elements of general surgery and is primarily designed to help dental students and to be a reference work for the practicing dentist.</i>				