

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>				

Books Received (*Continued*)

Title & Edition	Author/Editor	Publisher		Pages	Price
		Address, Name, Year			
Pain-Origin and Treatment	Benjamin H. Gorsky, M.D.	Garden City, New York Medical Examination Publishing Co., Inc. and Excerpta Medica Company 1981		123	\$9.50 (paper- back) \$16.50
<i>This book covers psychological aspects of pain, manipulations of the nervous system, medications, and hypnosis. Current modalities and their applications are evaluated.</i>					
Drug Reactions and the Liver	Michael Davis J. Michael Tredger Roger Williams (Editors)	Brooklyn, New York Pitman Publishing Inc. c/o Mercedes Book Distributors, Inc. 1981		364	\$45.00
<i>This volume is the culmination of the proceedings of an international symposium held in July 1980 at the Royal Society, London. It encompasses various approaches of clinicians, basic scientists and members of the pharmaceutical industry and many loosely structured panel discussions.</i>					
Cardiopulmonary Cerebral Resuscitation	Peter Safar, M.D.	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania W. B. Saunders Company 1981		240	\$15.00 (soft- cover)
<i>The objective of this manual is to convey the knowledge to be acquired prior to resuscitation attempts on patients by physicians and instructors of CPR. This volume was prepared for the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists.</i>					
Anesthesia and Uncommon Diseases—Pathophysiologic and Clinical Correlations Second edition	Jordan Katz, M.D. Jonathan Benumof, M.D. Leslie Kadis, M.D. (Editors)	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania W. B. Saunders Company 1981		807	\$49.00
<i>This second edition is almost completely a total re-do of the first. It presents critical evaluations by widely qualified physicians and expands and adds to the extensive first edition the best basic science and clinical information.</i>					
Hazards and Errors in Anaesthesia	D. A. Buxton Hopkin	New York, New York Springer-Verlag, New York, Inc. 1981		296	\$24.80
<i>This volume primarily presents information for beginners outlining hazards sometimes encountered, and secondarily elucidates for those anesthetists living in rural areas the type of anesthesia recommended for surgical operations not frequently seen.</i>					
General Urology Tenth edition	D. R. Smith (Editor)	Los Altos, California Lange Medical Publishers 1981		598	\$19.50 (paper- back)
<i>This tenth edition of General Urology, which is available in Spanish, Japanese, Polish, and Portuguese, has been updated to keep the user knowledgeable of the newest developments in the discipline.</i>					
Brain Edema	Marinus deVlieger Samuel A. deLange Jan W. F. Beks (Editors)	Somerset, New Jersey John Wiley & Sons, Inc.		176	\$32.50
<i>This volume, which is based on a conference on brain edema held by the G. J. Muller Foundation in 1978, contains a survey of current information on this subject.</i>					