control probably will always be difficult. Unless an outstanding discovery in the prevention and/or treatment of atherosclerosis, hypertension or both takes place, improvement will be too gradual to measure from one year to the next. Only when the statistics are compared by decades will the effects of these measures for stroke control become clearly evident."

Although not necessarily within the scope of this text, I would have liked to have seen a section devoted to recent controversies and experimental therapies in cerebrovascular disease, such as microsurgical revascularization procedures and barbiturate protection of the brain in ischemic states, not necessarily to advocate or condemn these newer treatments, but to apprise physicians of their potential usefulness and to encourage primary care physicians. More effective treatment for stroke may soon be available, but will demand early and more precise diagnosis. Referral of those patients that could then be benefited by medical and surgical therapy not available in the community would then be more effective.

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This is an inexpensive, soft-covered text which, as the author explains in the preface, was essentially lifted from his eighth edition (1977) of Review of Medical Physiology. It is intended to serve as a ready reference for students engaged in integrated courses in the neurosciences. For the anesthesiologist, whether student or practitioner, it offers a nearly painless means of reviewing and updating knowledge of the physiology of the nervous system. The author is adept at presenting potentially complex concepts in a manner that is easily understood and, by integrating these concepts with material already discussed, makes the entire subject remarkably palatable. Comprehension is greatly aided by the liberal use of straightforward illustrations. At least half of the 17 chapters deal with topics of immediate application to the theory and practice of anesthesiology. These include chapters dealing with nerve transmission, muscle physiology, synaptic transmission, the reticular activating system, the electroencephalogram, the autonomic nervous system, cerebral circulation, and cerebral metabolism. If there is fault to be found, it is perhaps in the apparent paucity of references, which are listed following each of the three sections of the book. One hopes that this reflects selectivity, rather than incompleteness. Certainly most of the references are current and are largely made up of other textbooks and symposiums, rather than individual scientific articles. A thorough index is provided, which enables one readily to use the book as a reference text for reviewing specific basic concepts of nervous system function. There are several things which this book is not. It is not a textbook of neuroanatomy, although anatomic considerations are dealt with to the extent that these subserve function. It is not a thorough book, in the sense that none of the subjects is dealt with in an exhaustive fashion; rather, it provides a general overview of that which the author considers to be important for basic comprehension. It is not a "prestige" book that will enhance the appearance of one's bookshelf. It is instead a book that you might read.

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This is a book to be enjoyed by both novice and the experienced anesthetist. Hemodynamic function, be it of the heart as a pump or muscle, the circulation as a system of rigid or elastic tubes, or compartmental exchange by diffusion or active transport, is a fact of contemporary physiology and requires comprehension if we are to keep abreast of advances in clinical medicine. Each of these topics has been the subject of several learned monographs, few suitable for the less-than-expert. Dr. Little has managed to assemble the bulk of our knowledge in cardiovascular physiology into an updated format intended for medical and beginning graduate students. The monograph (a paperback and therefore of reasonable cost) is divided into three main sections of roughly 100 pages each, under the headings Physiologic Principles, Heart, and Circulation. Following a brief introduction, which covers the physical principles with only a modicum of mathematical formulas, the pertinent physiologic points are discussed in a terse style aided by drawings that are modified from the original literature.

Brevity is a virtue for the reader who wishes an overview to refresh the memory or prepare for specialty examinations. This monograph incorporates both, although complexity of the subject does require reading with the same care accorded a legal document. On the other hand, brevity carries certain hazards, exemplified by the discussion of mechanical activity of cardiac cells, or the physics of blood flow. This is a valiant attempt to cover a very complex subject such as the molecular mechanisms of cardiac contraction or rheology, unlikely to illuminate the novice or satisfy the expert. The same can be said of the section on Energetics of the Heart; yet, these comments are not meant to detract. I doubt that anyone can succeed with a presentation palatable to all sophisticated tastes.

No book of this sort can satisfy a reviewer's prejudices. As a rule, a heavy price is paid for simplification, and I admit to a negative attitude when I began my reading. Fortunately, this changed to enthusiasm on passing from the first to the second chapter. Granted that it does not replace available, extensive monographs on the subject, some now reissued after several revisions, but it does provide a sound review from which serious study can continue. The chapters on Dynamics of the Heart Beat and Output of the Heart were particularly satisfying, a reflection, one must suspect, of the author's exposure to the Wiggers school. I hope that the effort generated to produce this volume will not deter subsequent efforts at revision.

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The authors' stated intent in compiling this book is to present the available world information on acupuncture in animals; to make available a starting point from which basic or clinical investigators can begin to devise studies for sorting out the riddle of acupuncture; to make available to animal owners the information on this subject that will help them to understand acupuncture and the possible benefits it may offer their animals; to make available a source from which veterinarians can find out what has been done in the theory and practice of veterinary acupuncture.

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