"COMPARATIVE ANATOMY OF VERTEBRATES," adapted from the German of Dr. R. Wiedersheim, by W. N. Parker. Third edition, founded on the sixth German. The Macmillan Company, 1907. \$3.75 net.

A new English edition of Wiedersheim's standard work has been needed for some years and will be welcomed everywhere. The third edition is not a new book; on the contrary, it is a careful revision of the second English edition based on the sixth German edition. New material is usually interpolated in the old text, but certain sections, notably those upon the skin, skull, meninges, lymphatic system and the adrenals, have been largely rewritten and improved. The book is slightly larger than the second edition and contains considerably more material, greater compactness having been secured by the use of smaller type for the extensive bibliography.

The bibliography is a very useful feature of the work, but page references and both date and volume should have been given. Unfortunately, references to the bibliography have not been given in the text, and sometimes the results of research have not been incorporated, even when they are found in the German edition.

Some seventy new illustrations have been added, including several half-tones of sections of the skin and a number of colored figures from Gaupp's article on the skull in Hertwig's *Handbuch der Entwicklungslehre*. Occasionally the terminology of the text differs from that used in explaining an accompanying figure, or even fails to mention the facts which a figure is intended to illustrate.

The opportunity to use the Basle Nomenclature and to apply its principles to comparative anatomy has been neglected. The terminology of the English edition, unlike the German, is not consistent; for example, the translator first uses the term *fenestra ovalis*, but later *fenestra vestibuli*.

At the beginning of the volume we encounter such embryological diagrams as are found in nearly all "anatomies" and which are denounced for their coarseness and inaccuracy by all embryologists. In Fig. 1, "Das unbefruchtete tierische Ei" is represented simply by three nearly concentric circles which the translator well calls a diagram.

The account of the integument has been much improved, notably by the addition of figures from actual sections. The chapter dealing with the skeleton contains a new account of the skull based upon Gaupp's work. The section on the episternum has been omitted.

In the treatment of the nervous system the theory of nerve components has not been considered. Very little is said of fiber tracts; the *nervus terminalis* and the paraphysis are relegated to footnotes. The respiratory organs are satisfactorily treated, and the new figures, particularly the diagrams of the structure of the avian and mammalian lungs, are very helpful. The cœlom is given a very brief treatment in a separate section.

The description of the veins could be greatly improved by taking advantage of well-known embryological studies. A part of the vein described as the posterior cardinal vein in Selachians is identical with a part of that named the posterior vena cava in the Amphibia. The corresponding vessels of *Protopterus* are named the posterior cava on the right and posterior cardinal on the left. The section on the lymphatic system, having only one figure and three pages of text, is too brief. Even the short statement of the differences between hæmolymph and lymph glands included in the German edition has been omitted in the translation.

The addition of a large amount of new matter, together with the careful selection of material, has largely increased the value of the book without increasing its size and cost beyond the limits of class-room use. This work is of proven value and, in this edition, it will doubtless continue to maintain its unique position as the most valuable college textbook of comparative anatomy.

Leonard W. Williams.

“HANDBUCH DER TOPOGRAPHISCHEN ANATOMIE ZUM GEBRAUCH FÜR AERZTE,” by Dr. Fr. Merkel, Professor of Anatomy in Göttingen. Bd. I (Kopf), 1885-1890; Bd. II (Hals, Brust und Bauch), 1899; Bd. III (Becken und Extremitäten), 1907.

The appearance of the third volume of Merkel's Topographic Anatomy marks the completion of what is in most respects the best work that has yet appeared dealing with this phase of anatomy. It is now over twenty years since this work was begun. During this time, Merkel has made extensive original investigation of the topographic anatomy in the various regions of the body, and this has enabled him to give the work a stamp of originality rarely seen in a work so comprehensive in scope and so exhaustive in details. At the same time, the views of other investigators in this field have received full consideration, the detailed