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IX. *On the Use of the Word Homology in Comparative Anatomy.* By H. E. STRICKLAND, M.A., F.G.S.

To the Editors of the *Philosophical Magazine and Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN I recommended in a recent paper on the Structural Relations of Organized Beings (p. 358), that comparative anatomists should use the term *affine* or *homologous* in place of *analogous*, when speaking of structures which essentially correspond in different organized beings, I was quite aware, though I accidentally omitted to say so, that the word *homologous* had been occasionally used in that sense. I therefore by no means intended to imply that *homologous* was a word of my own coining, but I merely expressed a wish to see it, or its synonym *affine*, adopted uniformly in a technical sense, where it had already been adopted partially. But from what Prof. Owen says (p. 525), it is clear that the term *homology* has only been introduced into this country in the last four or five years, and by few if any authors besides himself. We may henceforth, however, hope to see the distinction between analogy and homology, a distinction clearly comprehended by the mighty mind of Aristotle (*Hist. Anim.* lib. i. c. 1.), but which has been and still is very imperfectly understood by many naturalists to the present time, become every day more strongly impressed on the minds of students, and implanted in their memories by exactness of definition and of nomenclature.

Of the two synonymous words *affinity* and *homology*, the latter appears preferable, as being constructed on a similar plan to its antithesis *analogy*. It is to be regretted therefore that the modern zoologists, to whom we are indebted for the first clear definitions on this subject, did not adopt the term *homology* instead of *affinity*, but the latter word is now so well established in systematic zoology, that it is perhaps too late to alter it. We may however be thankful to Prof. Owen for having been the first to introduce the convenient and useful word *homology* into the language of comparative anatomy in this country, as well as for the philosophical definitions which he has given of its several kinds.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

Oxford, June 17, 1846.

H. E. STRICKLAND.