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Book Notice

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The author has developed a new approach to vertebrate anatomy and does not follow the conventional line of comparative anatomy texts closely, but rather develops the view that the behavior and performance of the animal is limited by various features of structure. Special emphasis is given to function and levels of organization with a consideration of structural specialization and adaptability in special or restricted habitats. The text is extensively documented with illustrations of specializations in structure. Much of this is drawn from information collected by the author and Dr. G. W. Crile, during several expeditions, prior to the death of the latter. The text, well illustrated with many new diagrams and pictures, combines the author’s facility for description with a satisfactory amount of useful anatomical information to aid in the understanding of important structural changes from lower to higher levels of organization along with corresponding changes or adaptations of a functional nature. An interesting chapter, not usually found in texts covering this general subject, is the one concerned with anthropology in which the author sums up evidences for the several levels of structural and functional specialization that have culminated in man and the other anthropoid apes, and at the same time show the fundamental morphologic relationships of members of this group of Primates. In the final chapter the author presents some interesting concepts regarding levels of organization and function with respect to levels of organic evolution. The book is a useful reference for vertebrate zoology as well as for a premedical course in comparative anatomy.

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