
Comparative Physiology

It has often been said that Physiology is the hand-maiden of Medicine. Certain it is that the development of these two aspects of biological science have to a large extent been parallel and interdependent. It is no doubt largely for this reason that the general and comparative approaches to physiology have been so slow in their development. Dr. Rogers' Textbook of Comparative Physiology, the first edition of which appeared in 1927, is one of the few books on functional biology which is written from the comparative point of view. In General Physiology the emphasis is presumably on principles which apply to living matter in general, while Comparative Physiology would naturally be expected to deal with the variations in these same principles found in going from one group of animals to another. It is obvious that both of these branches of physiology, in common with mammalian physiology, must deal with the same principles. A certain amount of overlapping in textbooks is, therefore, unavoidable and it is to be expected that a considerable part of the material presented in Dr. Rogers' book should be identical with the contents of standard books on general physiology. However, Dr. Rogers has collected and organized in his book a large amount of material on the physiology of the invertebrates not found elsewhere except in the published results of original research. This fact should make the book of much value to the general biologist as well as to the physiologist whose interest extends beyond the limits of the mamalia.

The second edition of Dr. Rogers' Comparative physiology, which has just appeared, has been rearranged and largely rewritten. It also contains much new material, most of which can be found in no other book. The volume should be of considerable value, not only to the student of physiology, but to the research worker as well.—*Fred A. Hitchcock.*

Textbook of Comparative Physiology, 2nd edition, by Charles Gardener Rogers. xviii+715 pp. New York, The McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1938. \$5.50.