
The Vertebrate Body. *Alfred Sherwood Romer.* W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia. 1970 (4th ed.). viii+601 p. \$10.25.

When the first edition of this comparative vertebrate anatomy text appeared in 1949, it was welcomed as an authoritative and freshly written book that brought new life to a literature which had generally concentrated solely upon anatomical form. There was little thought of bringing together the study of form and the associated studies of function, paleontology, histology, and the homology of a structure. Romer integrated these studies into a whole, producing an extremely useful tool.

The text is basically the same as in the last edition (1962), with the exception of the chapter on the skull, which has been largely rewritten. Minor changes in the text number in the hundreds and, according to Romer, range "from a phrase to a paragraph or two." Besides textual revisions and datings, the lengthy (yet somewhat chaotically arranged) bibliography has also been brought up to date. A synoptic classification of the chordates and a list of terms giving Latin and Greek equivalents are additional appendices. The index has been thoroughly compiled and is most extensive.

The use of colored figures, as also used in the previous edition, are a useful aid in the differentiation of adjacent structures, but the new edition has added, quite effectively, colored figures in the chapter on the skull. Of the 415 excellent illustrations, some have been modified and a few have been added.

In summary, this is an excellent comparative vertebrate anatomy text for the undergraduate level that is even better than its worthy previous editions.

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