

INTRODUCTION.

IN the family of the sciences Comparative Psychology may claim nearest kinship with Comparative Anatomy; for just as the latter aims at a scientific comparison of the bodily structures of organisms, so the former aims at a similar comparison of their mental structures.* Moreover, in the one science as in the other, the first object is to analyze all the complex structures with which each has respectively to deal. When this analysis, or dissection, has been completed for as great a number of cases as circumstances permit, the next object is to compare with one another all the structures which have been thus analyzed; and, lastly, the results of such comparison supply, in each case alike, the basis for the final object of these sciences, which is that of classifying, with reference to these results, all the structures which have been thus examined.

In actual research these three objects are prosecuted, not successively, but simultaneously. Thus it is not necessary in either case that the final object—that of classification—should wait for its commencement upon the completion of the dissection or analysis of every organism or every mental structure that is to be found upon the earth. On the contrary, the *comparison* in each case begins with the facts that are first found to be *comparable*, and is afterwards progressively extended as knowledge of additional facts becomes more extensive.

Now each of the three objects which I have named affords

* The word "structure" is used in a metaphorical sense when applied to mind, but the usage is convenient.