

Comparative Philology.

A Short Manual of Comparative Philology.
By P. Giles. [Macmillan & Co. \$3.00.]

This manual, by a Cambridge University man, England, is intended for classical students, but may be commended to the average teacher of Greek and Latin, at least in this country, as a book that he may profitably study. Few teachers in our high schools and academies know even the alphabet of the subject, and they will find this manual a scholarly introduction to it. That a volume of nearly six hundred pages should be a "short" treatment of it may suggest to them the vast proportions to which this branch of linguistic science has extended in these latter days. Part I (pages 1-94) deals with "general principles," discussing the questions, "What is philology?" "What is an Indo-Germanic language?" and "How do Indo-Germanic languages differ from other languages?" with the principles of "modern philology" as distinguished from "prescientific" views, and

chapters on phonetics and accent. Parts II and III, devoted respectively to "Sounds and Their Combinations" (pages 95-200) and "Words and Their Combinations" (pages 201-445), form what is practically a comparative grammar of Latin and Greek. As the book is not intended for critical students in philology, words from Sanskrit, or other languages with which the reader is likely to be unacquainted, are, with rare exceptions, not introduced. On the other hand, forms from English and related languages are cited when they have cognate forms in the classical languages. Throughout the needs of the learner have been well kept in view, the first part of the book being made as simple and elementary as possible, and the path to its more complex and difficult departments being judiciously graded and smoothed. Abundant references to authorities add to its convenience for the purposes of the instructor or the private student who desires to pursue the subject further. An appendix (pages 447-508) considers the Greek and Latin alphabets, the Greek dialects, and the Italian dialects, with interesting illustrative extracts; and four copious indexes (the author prefers the plural "indices") of Greek, Latin, and Germanic words and of subjects (pages 409-543) complete what seems to us an admirable work of its class.