

## BOOK REVIEWS

SHORT-WAVE DIATHERMY. By Tibor de Cholnoky. Columbia University Press, New York, 1937. pp. xiii + 310. \$4.00.

A good estimate of the value and interest of this book would be for one to attempt to review the large volume of literature on the subject of the development and uses of short-wave diathermy, which the author has studiously done. He has gleaned the rapidly accumulating published work of the past decade, previous to which little or nothing was written on the subject. An extensive bibliography is appended.

The author provides a stimulating introduction for the development of his subject with a brief but fascinating history of the evolution of short-wave diathermy. A therapeutic agent which appears destined to stimulate further extensive investigation and which may unearth additional therapeutic advantages must be understood thoroughly. The author has provided opportunity for the grasp of this subject by elaborating the fundamentals clearly, supplementing the descriptive explanations with adequate diagrams.

Not the least important of the fundamentals is the explanation of the significance between diathermy and short-wave diathermy; nor should the section of the text dealing with the experimentation with short-wave diathermy be passed over lightly. It is true that some of the experimental work, especially in the earlier efforts, appears rather sketchy and the results, at times, unconvincing, but the whole subject, being in its developmental stage, offers added incentive for further investigation. The impression gathered from this book that there are potential possibilities of remedial benefits from the use of this medium, as evidenced by even the most modest and conservative estimates of some of the investigators, cannot fail to arouse enthusiasm.

The author points out with just emphasis the dangers of inexpert and careless use of this therapeutic agent and adds convincing precautions to obviate the condemnation that a critical medical profession may apply to loose and inadequately controlled work. A proper curb to varying results is suggested in recommending great care in choosing apparatus, which as yet is not sufficiently standardized.

The large number of clinical uses of short-wave diathermy as outlined by the author invites the suspicion of over-enthusiasm, were it not for the fact that the results as reported in the literature should be accepted critically but only in the light that the subject is still in the experimental stage.

The author might have attempted to overcome some of the skepticism which may greet the reports of results from such a great variety of uses of this modality with additional critical interpretations.

The book will prove valuable not only to those clinicians and physiotherapists already working with this medium but should stimulate others in becoming familiar with it. Thus short-wave diathermy bids well to become a valuable adjunct to our therapeutic equipment.

—ALEXANDER L. BASSIN.

A STORY OUTLINE OF EVOLUTION. By Charles W. Grimes. The C. P. Hoagland Co., Somerville, N. J., 1937. pp. 286. \$2.

This book was written by a layman apparently to enlighten the uninformed layman and the unsophisticated adolescent and to combat the prejudices of those who bridle at the word "evolution." In a disarming manner and in simple language, organic evolution has been sugar-coated with an anecdotal history of the human race so that the veriest die-hard should be able to swallow it. By introducing the cultural evolution of man in a readable, dramatic, story-book style, under chapter headings such as "The Dawn of Civilization," "Evolution of the Alphabet," and "The Developing of Morals" (or of Transportation, Communication, Power, Arts, etc.), the author has laid up a word pile behind which the Ethiopian, organic evolution, can hide. When organic evolution is brought out into the open, it is with a defense that science in general, and evolution in particular, can be reconciled with religion. If one is inclined to question the need for such a defense, he has only to recall some legislative attempts of recent years to realize that a book of this kind has its place. The type of reader to whom it will appeal will not be disturbed by the fact that the evidence offered in support of organic evolution is presented with an anthropomorphic slant, as is suggested by chapter titles such as: "The Preparation for Higher Life," "The Life Spark and the Soul Spark." Most of the usual sources of confirmation of the theory of evolution have been used, but only fragments of the evidence from astronomy, geology, comparative anatomy, embryology, and anthropology are presented. Some evidence has been overlooked. For instance, there is no mention of the indication of animal relationships by serological reactions.

—R. G. MEADER.

