

Price \$3.00

Aug. 17, 1998

THE NEW YORKER

77

BRIEFLY NOTED

THE HAND, by Frank R. Wilson (Pantheon; \$30). The author, a neurologist, explores anatomy, anthropology, and evolution to show how the hand shapes human language and thought. He argues convincingly that a less rigid, more individualized approach to education will yield a student with a unified body and mind. His most inspiring evidence is blessedly anecdotal: interviews with people whose vocations involve the skilled use of their hands, among them a master marionettist who has learned to "be *in* the puppet," a virtuosic backhoe operator, and a surgeon who is also a magician.

