Book Reviews

MANUAL OF HAND INJURIES. By H. Minor NICHOLS, M.D., Clinical Instructor in Surgery, University of Oregon Medical School, Portland. 9×6 in. Pp. 352, with 180 figures. Index. 1955. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers Inc. London: Interscience Publishers Ltd. Price 72s.

During the past twenty years an increasing number of surgeons in America have specialised in the surgery of the hand. Kanavel and Stirling Bunnell have set a very high standard in this new speciality. H. Minor Nichols's *Manual of Hand Injuries* maintains this quality of writing. His descriptions of anatomy are short and practical and accompanied by clear illustrations. The chapter on general technique contains sound principles of the management of these injuries. The chapter on minor injuries is full of useful and practical advice for all medical practitioners. It is interesting to find that the myth about venous compression and Volkmann's contracture still persists in American

FIG. 63

A: Avulsion of skin of back of hand from auto accident. Excision of subcutaneous tissues and replacement of skin as graft resulted in full function (B).

writings. The remarks about burns are sound and up to date, and there are full and concise descriptions of the plastic surgery indications and techniques. There is an excellent discussion on the problem of avulsed skin flaps, and the author is quite certain that the chances of recovery are better if the flaps are detached, denuded of fat and then sewn back into position (Fig. 63). Photographs of extensive, complicated injuries are accompanied by explanatory line drawings which make the illustrations most effective. The chapter on infections is disappointing. There is no advance on the treatment described by Kanavel and one regrets to see the recommendation of such out-dated treatment as moist dressings and "fish mouth" incisions. The only other fault to be found is the recommendation that the fluoroscope is used in checking the position of a fracture. Aside from these two faults the book is so informative and so well produced that it should be considered an essential for the library of surgeons dealing with accidents.—L. W. PLEWES.