

decisive factor both at the trial and in the final solution of the crime.

From another angle, the author gives a highly interesting account of primitive methods of crime detection, to show that, almost universally, they have originated from some form of animistic religion. But here again there may be argument. It seems far-fetched to attempt a parallel between the aborigine directing his search for a murderer by the crawling of an ant over the grave of the victim, and the American detective who deduced the time of a murder from the thought that flies, lying dead on a window sill and killed by the same poison as the victim, had probably been attracted to the window by the light of dawn.

Nothing that is said here is meant to belittle the stimulating effect of this book. Its author is at his best when he expounds the nature and interpretation of clues, and "the seven golden W's" of crime detection, and what he says is bound to be of importance to anyone concerned in that pursuit.

GAUNTLET TO OVERLORD, by Ross Munro. The Macmillan Co. of Canada Ltd., Toronto. Pp. 477. \$3.

The name of Ross Munro became familiar to newspaper readers in Canada and elsewhere through dispatches from various fronts during the war. It was always a guarantee of careful and conscientious reporting. In this book he has undertaken to tell of the part taken by the Canadian Army in the operations at Spitzbergen, at Dieppe, in Sicily, and on and after D-Day. The same qualities have gone into the book as into his other work. While his account is largely matter of fact, he shows in many ways that he was keenly sensitive to the horror and tragedy of war as it affects the individual. When he has occasion to deal with a controversial topic he does so tactfully and without bias.

The book is open to criticism on two grounds. First, the reportorial method has been carried to extreme in beginning with the D-Day landing and then going back to

tell of the earlier operations. The landing in Normandy was the climax to which the other operations were designed to lead, and did lead, and the chronological order would better enable the reader to place the events in their proper relation to each other. This applies especially to the raid on Dieppe. Second, the lack of an index is notable when one wishes to follow the references to a particular unit or person. There is no doubt that Mr. Munro's book will have a semi-official status and that it will be consulted many times until an official history is written, and probably afterwards.

THE FALAISE ROAD, by Alan Wood. The Macmillan Co. of Canada Ltd., Toronto. Pp. 64. \$1.

This is a day-to-day account, written by an Australian war correspondent, of the bitter struggle after which the British Second Army and the Canadian First Army "looked back along the 34 kilometres of the Falaise Road, the 21 miles of R.N. 158 which it has taken them over a month, and the lives of thousands of men, to travel". It tells in vivid and sometimes poignant detail why it was that, while the Americans were making spectacular gains across France, the British and Canadians seemed to be standing still. The Americans, to adopt Mr. Wood's metaphor, were swinging along the wide arc of an opening door, the British and Canadians "had to hit at the hinge".

The appended Chapter VIII, "The Truth about France", contains some startling statements. For example, the author says "You can take any town in France and divide it according to incomes; of those with an income above a certain level, 90 per cent were collaborationists. Of those with an income below that level, 99 per cent were not collaborationists".

It may be that this author's opinions, like others, will meet with something less than unanimous agreement. However, there is no doubt that his account of the actual fighting will appeal to Canadians, especially as he writes with generous and outspoken admiration for Canadian troops.