

the mathematical problem ranges from reverence to the violent aversion that makes truants out of schoolboys, it goes without saying that the amount of pleasure to be derived from a book of this sort depends directly on one's personal inclination toward the subject of mathematics. No one with a distaste for figures should snatch up Mr. Hunter's books in the fervent hope of finding in them some mystical charm capable of dispelling the gloom and causing a sudden conversion of attitude. On the other hand, any person with a mathematical turn of mind and a high school knowledge of algebra can expect to derive from them the satisfaction that comes from arriving at a solution to a tricky problem that someone less gifted might dismiss as insoluble. Frequently appearing in the form of verse and anecdote, sometimes witty, the nondescript puzzles contained in Mr. Hunter's books quite often carry the stamp of burlesque. Zany or otherwise, all of them are of a thought-provoking nature, calculated to keep you mentally alert and guessing.

M.G.R.

WITHOUT FEAR, FAVOR OR AFFECTION, by V. A. M. Kemp. Longmans Green and Company, Toronto, Canada.

Advance reports indicate wide-spread interest in a new book on the Mounted Police. Members of the Force and former RCMP personnel will recognize the author as Asst. Commr. V. A. M. Kemp (Rtd.), who after a long and distinguished career in the Force has become equally as well known in the business world. Now he has turned his talents toward writing and his first book, written in autobiographical style, is aimed at bridging the gap in several of the more modern histories of the RCMP. In general the book will show the evolution of the Force from the pre-war days of 1914 to the post-World War II period.

RUSSIA, THE ATOM AND THE WEST, by George F. Kennan, Oxford University Press, Toronto, Ont. Pp. 120. \$2.25.

Each autumn the British Broadcasting Corporation invites eminent men to deliver a series of six talks on subjects upon which, through experience and long study, they are particularly well-qualified to speak. The 1957 Reith Lectures, now published in book form, were delivered by Mr. George

Kennan, formerly United States Ambassador to the USSR and a life-long student of Soviet affairs. Carefully phrased and obviously the result of much thinking, they are the views of one man expressing the truth as he sees it about the dominant problem of our times—the division between east and west.

In *Russia, the Atom and the West* Mr. Kennan, in essence, rejects the views he first put forward in an article under the pseudonym "Mr. X" ten years ago, the so-called theory of containment. His new thesis is deceptively simple. The nuclear deterrent he submits, has its value as a stabilizing factor in international affairs, and the major western powers, the United States and Great Britain, should therefore maintain it. However, he feels that both powers should not continue to pile up great stocks of nuclear weapons for the arms race between east and west cannot "in any way serve the purposes of a constructive and hopeful foreign policy". Instead of continuing the policy of containment based on strictly military alliances such as NATO and nuclear force he advocates a policy of disengagement in Central Europe where east and west meet.

In short, Mr. Kennan wants United States and British forces—and that of course means Canadian units as well—withdrawn from continental Europe. The withdrawal however, would be counter-balanced by organizing French and German para-military forces patterned after the current Swiss model. At the same time, Mr. Kennan wants a return to negotiation by secret diplomacy free from the glare of public meetings and the propaganda of summit talks.

These are brave views carefully expressed even though Mr. Kennan admits that he has no confidence in the leaders of the Soviet Union who, because of Marxist-Leninist ideology, are "committed to a badly distorted image of the outside world". He knows from experience that Messrs. Krushchev, Mikoyan etc., are "men who can be directly influenced (only) by situations but not in words expressed in any terminology other than their own".

Because of the nature of the lectures Mr. Kennan could bring out only the essentials of his analysis, and he does not discuss some of the more peripheral aspects of east-west