

print method now in use in Scotland Yard, is in full working order. It is, besides constituting a most valuable adjunct to the work of the Justice Department, a very interesting feature of the work of the Dominion police.

The need of some such system had long been felt, and when it was finally decided to establish it, Inspector Foster of the force was sent to every penitentiary in Canada to photograph the faces and secure finger imprints of its inmates.

That the individual finger print possesses distinct characteristics, and that no two finger prints are alike, is a fact now generally realized, and it is on this system that the Identification Bureau is run. A prisoner of the present day who enters a Canadian penitentiary, besides having his photograph taken and his general characteristics noted, is made to register impressions of every finger of both hands on specially prepared slips. Photograph, description, and finger prints are then sent to the bureau, which returns two facsimiles and files away one. Finger prints fall into different classifications according to the varying patterns that go to make them up, and on arrival at Ottawa these classifications are determined and they are filed away for future reference.

But we will let Inspector Foster himself expound the system, whose working are now intrusted to him.

"Yes, we are already finding the new system valuable, very valuable indeed. There are very few old offenders, no matter how many aliases they assume, who can now hope to escape with light sentences when again convicted.

"Thomas Heron, convicted of house-breaking, may not look much like Bill Jennings, who served a term three years ago for forgery, but his finger prints are the same, and that's where we get him. You can graduate from the living-skeleton class in-

to a prototype of Bill Taft, but your finger print is a thing you are born with and you are going to die with.

"He knows it, too, the convict of the present day. Many a trick have I seen him attempt, hoping to thwart us. He shellacs his fingers, tries to rub the patterns off against brick walls, or even cuts them with window glass. But it doesn't go," and here the inspector smiled grimly.

"'Do juries accept finger-print identification as evidence?' Yes, as it happens, I can answer that first-hand. I was an expert witness, you see, in the trial at Chicago a little over a year ago of Thomas Jennings, colored, who was accused of murder. He was the first man convicted by an American jury on finger-print evidence. After committing the crime with which he was charged he had leaped over a rail outside the house and gained safety. Only temporary safety, however, for he had left the telltale digit impressions on the rail, and by these he was identified.

"We have some 3,800 individual finger-print and photograph records filed away now, and the number is growing. At present our scope is limited only to the penitentiaries, but in time we hope to take in the Provincial jails as well."

The operation of the parole or ticket-of-leave system is another function of justice that is largely delegated to the commissioner of police. The latter is notified of every release for good behavior, and the reports which the paroled offenders are required to make to the chief of police of the city or sheriff of the county in which they take up residence are sent to him for consideration.

While the work of the Identification Bureau is in charge of Inspector Foster, Inspector Dennis Hogan superintends the routine portion of the duties of the force of some sixty men, which constitutes the Dominion police, and Inspector James Parkin-