

**CHERRILL OF THE YARD**, the autobiography of Fred Cherrill, ex-Chief Superintendent of the Fingerprint Bureau, New Scotland Yard. Clarke, Irwin & Co., Ltd., Toronto, Canada. Illustrated. Indexed. Pp. 248. \$3.15.

When the author of this book retired last year, it was after 39 years' service as a policeman, 33 of them in the Fingerprint Bureau of Scotland Yard. Fingerprints, you might say, were his hobby—his interest in them was first aroused in rather surprising fashion before he ever became a policeman—and he has been fortunate in being able to spend his working years combining his vocation and his hobby. His success in his chosen field of endeavor is due, perhaps, as much to the happy chance that afforded him such an opportunity, as to the study and industry with which he applied himself to his profession.

Mr. Cherrill's book is chiefly a collection of cases he has worked on as a fingerprint expert. Many of them were murders, but he has included investigations of ordinary crimes where fingerprints played an equally important role in (1) identifying the suspect, or (2) bringing about a conviction. The author also gives an illustration of how fingerprints may be equally valuable in establishing innocence as well as guilt, a valuable phase of identification work which is too often forgotten by the public.

Fingerprinting is universally recognized today as an important branch of criminal investigation and an infallible means of identification. It was not always so. The Henry system of classification was adopted by Scotland Yard in 1901, although fingerprints had been used before then as a means of confirming identifications established by the Bertillon system of measurements. It was some years before fingerprint identification was accepted without reservation by the Courts and even during Cherrill's service the laws affecting the use of this branch of police science underwent some modification. He was privileged to have served during those "progressive" years and shortly before his retirement, Mr. Cherrill wrote a text-book on fingerprints entitled "The Fingerprint System at Scotland Yard" which has been published by H.M. Stationery Office and now replaces Sir Edward Henry's "Classification and Uses of Fingerprints".

"Cherrill of The Yard", while of no particular technical value, is more interesting reading for the average person. It is written in a clear simple style, much in the manner of a report prepared by an observant articulate policeman, a touch that will be recognized by readers who have perused crime reports.

**THE FORCE CARRIES ON**, by T. Morris Longstreth. The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Toronto. Illustrated. Pp. 182. \$2.

This is the sequel to "The Scarlet Force" by the same author. Picking up where the previous book left off, this volume covers the RNWMP and RCMP periods in the Force's history. In those eras the work of the Mounted Police gradually expanded to its present nation-wide scope. The Force grew in strength, it kept abreast of the times as a law-enforcement agency and yet it retained its aura of fictional mystery which has led writers to distort its true story. "Hence," writes Mr. Longstreth, "history is needed to supply the understanding. . . ."

History can be a dull subject in some people's hands, but happily, Mr. Longstreth is able to weld the salient points in the Force's history into an entertaining narrative. Since the book is one of the "Great Stories of Canada" series and is intended principally for the 11-16 age group, this is an important consideration. Youngsters with an interest in the Mounted Police—and in fact in Canadian history—will do well to read "The Force Carries On" for it provides a good understanding of the influence of justice and fair play in the progress of our country in the past 50 years.

**NORTH OF 55°**, edited by Clifford Wilson. The Ryerson Press, Toronto, Canada. Illustrated. Indexed. Pp. 190. \$5.

Away back in 1897, the Canadian Government acknowledged the importance of the North by exploring the possibilities of an all-Canadian overland route to the Yukon. To the NWMP was delegated the task of finding it and Insp. J. D. Moodie's patrol of '97 was the forerunner of a number of similar ventures culminating in the expedition of 1905 which attempted to hack a road out of the north-western wilderness. World War II reawakened official U.S.-Canadian awareness of the North and this continent's vulnerability to attack from that