

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

"ESSENTIAL TRAINING OMITTED"

'Protection of life and property'. These words are incorporated in the oath that all Police officers take when they are recruited, but can we honestly say that we are capable of protecting life? That does not mean from felonies such as assault or murder, but as a result of accident. Accidents in the home or on our roads account for more deaths than any criminal cause in any year, and who is normally first on the scene? A Police officer. Surely it is a prerequisite that all members should be in possession of a current First Aid Certificate, for without a solid working knowledge of that subject, how can we hope to accept the responsibility of those words that we swear to uphold.

First Aid is not a subject to be taken lightly. At the scene of an accident correct procedures may spell the difference between the survival or death of the accident victim. It is a vital subject that should be taught to **all** Police officers, whether Protective Services or General Duties. General Duties officers the public eye, and as previously stated, are often, if not always at the scene of an accident or fracas involving injury before the arrival of Ambulance personnel. Protective Service officers, in the most part, carry out their duties within buildings where notices are posted giving the location of First Aid officers and the Police Office is always mentioned. What good is a policeman if he cannot help the public he is paid to protect? It may not always be members of the public, but one's own fellow officers that may require assistance at some time or other. True, some members are already trained or have a good knowledge of the subject,



but the majority of these obtained their training before being recruited and those that have been trained since have undertaken the course in their own time at their own expense.

"A little knowledge is a dangerous thing" has been quoted and requoted with respect to most subjects but after what amounts to **one whole day** of First Aid training at the college and a certificate to attest to the fact that the officer concerned has answered '20 questions' on the subject, can this be anything else but? Isn't it time that all members of the Australian Federal Police were all **fully** trained in First Aid, and a three year maintenance programme instituted?

N. JESSON,
Constable.

The Editor notes: We approached Chief Superintendent Dawson, Principal of the Australian Federal Police College, Canberra, and he furnished the following comment on Constable Jesson's observations:

"I agree that it would be a 'nice to know' subject. However, apart from the basic ABC of Life Saving, it is not a 'must know' subject. This assessment is based on job experience and advice from the Ambulance Service and Police Medical

Officers. I appreciate Constable Jesson's interest in training relevancy. Submissions like this are very helpful; they require us to re-appraise course content, priorities and relevancy."

Dear Editor,

In the July 1980 edition of **Platypus**, you published a letter critical of certain comments made by me earlier this year.

Your correspondent implied my remarks related to AFP personnel generally. This is not so. For the record, the comments in question in no way reflect on those of your members who previously served in either the ACT Police Force or the Narcotics Bureau.

I would appreciate your publishing this note so as to correct my misunderstanding on the point which may have occurred following the appearance of the aforementioned letter in your columns.

Your faithfully
Bruce Swanton
Australian Institute of
Criminology

Dear Police Friends of Australia,

I am a Detective working in the forensic science department of the criminal police in Zurich. In Zurich we have approximately 400 Detectives and 1200 Bobbies.

I would be very interested in a professional exchange with Australian Police to compare notes and exchange information on all types of police and detective work.

I wish your Police Department all the best,

Yours sincerely,
Det. Wm. Hans Seeholzer,
Wissenschaftlicher Dienst,
der Stadtpolizei Zurich,
Zeughausstrasse 11/12
Switzerland.

