

# Editorial

IT IS CUSTOMARY for the first issue of any new periodical magazine or journal to contain a statement of editorial policy. There is good reason for this. Potential readers want to know what to expect; potential contributors, what is expected from them. Let us state briefly then, our aims and purposes as we see them.

We hope to provide an opportunity for comment and discussion on any topic relevant to the function which the Prison Service performs and the field in which it operates.

At the same time by the publication of news and information, those outside the Service should be supplied with reliable information about what is happening inside it; those inside, with information about what is happening outside in related spheres of action.

We would also hope to improve communications within the Service. The implementation of the Criminal Justice Act, 1948, has, over the past ten years, resulted in considerable growth in the size and complexity of our organisation, and the rapid development of specialisation. It is not surprising that communications have deteriorated.

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Two further points must be made. The Prison Officers' Association through the medium of their

magazine bade us a very kind, if slightly premature, "Welcome" in their March issue. In gratefully acknowledging this the Editorial Board would wish to state that it is no part of our policy to compete with the Prison Officers' Magazine in the domestic field. We intend rather to provide a complementary service dealing with wider issues on the lines indicated above.

The second point is of more general importance. This Journal is not an official publication: the views expressed in it are those of the contributors and must not be taken as representing statements of official policy. All contributions will be judged only on the basis of general interest for members of the Service, and relevance to our task and problems.

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We need say no more at this stage for what this Journal is to become lies in your hands. With the passage of time a periodical develops a personality of its own, and this is usually a reflection of the personalities of its readers and contributors. Finally the JOURNAL will be the product of your interest, support and participation.

EDITOR