



Det Inkster . . . 'nothing much more serious than murder'.

## Man 'found bleeding' on lavatory floor

A MAN told Newcastle Court yesterday that he found a bleeding man on the floor of a lavatory when he went to use the Birdwood Park facility nearly two years ago.

Brother Masseo, of the Order of the Society of St Francis, said he was looking around the park on December 19, 1980.

He walked into the lavatory about 1pm and saw the man, moaning and groaning, lying in front of the urinal.

Brother Masseo, also known as Mr A.G. Clements, was giving evidence at a preliminary hearing, part-heard until today, of a charge accusing Jeffrey Miller, 22, prison inmate, of having murdered Richard Slater at Newcastle on December 13, 1980.

The court was told that Mr Slater, a 69-year-old pensioner, died in hospital three days later.

The regional forensic pathologist, Dr L. Banathy, attributed Mr Slater's death to traumatic brain damage and to a pre-existing heart condition. It was his opinion that the trauma caused a shock which precipitated myocardial infarction.

Det Sen Constable G. Inkster said three people supplied him with information in late August and on Septem-

ber 1 this year. He had gone to Cessnock Corrective Centre to see Mr Miller.

He told Mr Miller that people had said he had gone into the lavatory between 12.30 and 1pm on December 19.

Mr Miller had said that he did not enter the lavatory. He had said later that he had, and that there was not much use in saying that he had not.

The detective said Mr Miller had then said that he supposed he would have 'to face up to it'.

### Revisited lavatory

While travelling with police to Newcastle, Mr Miller had said: "This is pretty serious, isn't it?" Det Inkster said he had replied that there was nothing much more serious than murder.

Mr Miller had asked: "What about it if I say the old bloke had a go at me first?"

Det Inkster said he told Mr Miller that all police wanted was the truth.

At Birdwood Park, Mr Miller agreed that the lavatory was the one he had entered on December 19, 1980. He had said he did not want to go in there again.