MAMA'S GOING TO BUY YOU A MOCKINGBIRD

Jean Little. Puffin Books, Harmondsworth, Middlesex. 1985. £1.95.

This is a sensitive children's novel about Jeremy, aged nearly 12, who grows up fast one long Canadian summer when his father falls ill and dies of cancer. Many of the issues facing bereaved children are dealt with well, although I would question the parents' decision not to tell eight-year-old Sarah of the seriousness of father's illness so that his death comes without preparation. The book is less good on her reactions and feelings than on Jeremy's. A little sentimental perhaps, and sometimes sententious especially in the religious passages, nevertheless I think the book would be helpful for boys coping with the death of their father, and is well written enough to figure in the libraries of primary schools as a useful book to open up a classroom discussion about the effects of losing a parent.

DORA BLACK
Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist

FOR BURIAL AT SEA

A new company, formed in November, 1986, will arrange a vessel and formalities for a burial at sea, or ceremony for scattering ashes offshore, at any point around the coast. The Britannia Shipping Company at Newton Poppleford, near Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0EF has a 24 hour telephone service for enquiries (Colaton Raleigh 68652) and a Company Chaplain.

'SAYING GOODBYE TO YOUR BABY'

A guide for parents whose baby dies around the time of birth. Pub. SANDS, The Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Society, Argyle House, 29-31 Euston Road, London NW1 2SD. Price 95p inc. p & p.

This gentle and sensitively written booklet was written because 'each baby is an individual person, different and important, and each baby does matter.'

Priscilla Alderson combines an excellent practical guide with a profound understanding of the many aspects of grieving for a lost baby. Many parents, their families and friends will find this moving booklet a source of comfort, as it outlines the stages and emotions of the grieving process.

'Parents used to be told to forget it ever happened, now we understand that grief is not something to be ignored; it is a way of helping people to adjust when something is lost or taken away.'

SANDS should be congratulated for producing this fine contribution to our understanding of infant death with the knowledge that 'slowly things will change until you can carry your memory of your baby and your sadness, and it no longer carries you.'

GLYNIS FLETCHER

CRUSE TRAINING OFFICER

Cruse is pleased to announce the appointment of Nicholas Tyndall as its first Training Officer. He took up post on 1st March.

WE ALL MOURN

—reflections by Terry Waite

The following extract is taken from 'Lent for Busy People', written for this year by Terry Waite. Copyright Shelagh Brown, editor of The Bible Reading Fellowship.

We all mourn, and we have to be able not only to comfort all who mourn but to be comforted ourselves.

I was talking recently with Chris Bonington, the mountaineer, about our reactions when people close to us have died. It was on a television interview, and he spoke about the time when he lost his colleagues on the mountain, and of how he lost his own son in an accident. It was years later, but the tears came into his eyes.

When you know how bitter an experience it is to lose the physical presence of someone you love you know that the comforting of those who mourn isn't saying, "Well, never mind, it'll be all right". Sometimes it's just being quiet with somebody, and allowing their grief to penetrate your own soul. You don't have to say anything.

One of the things that comforts me when I'm sad is the knowledge that there are other human beings who know me from all sides. They know the light and the darkness in me, and because of the closeness of the relationships they have experienced not only the light but the unpleasantness of the dark as well. But the relationship proves to be totally and absolutely dependable, and I know that I am still loved and valued and respected as a person, almost in spite of myself.

CREATIVE BREAKS
SOMERSET

Who Heals the Healers?

Finding a support system for carers in all aspects of the helping professions is essential to our wellbeing.

We offer THE THREE JOURNEYS as a step towards learning to take more responsibility for ourselves. Stages I and II (18th-22nd May, 1st-5th June) are based on clinical and humanistic psychology, with group work, visualisation, gestalt techniques and creative exploration. Stage III (21st-25th September) is for visitors wanting to take their insight further. All the workshop leaders are widely experienced in therapeutic skills.

CREATIVE BREAKS is a small residential centre long associated with Cruse through its unique **Living With Confidence** holiday courses. Luxurious accommodation, delicious dinners with candlelight and wine.

Brochure: Rosemary March Smith, Church Close House, Butleigh, Glastonbury, Somerset. Tel. 0458-50213.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
on
GRIEF & BEREAVEMENT IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

12th-15th July 1988
London

Cruse has been asked to organise this next major International Conference.

It will include plenary addresses by internationally known speakers, groups, workshops and poster sessions on themes including

* adult, child and family grief
* bereavement as a result of suicide, AIDS, murder, disaster and accident

There will be a special 'Meet the Author' session

and the first
Professor Shamai Davidson Memorial Lecture

* * *

This will be the largest Conference of its kind ever held. Early reservation is recommended.

Details from Cruse House, 126 Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1UR.