questions and answers and it is obvious from the depth of information and the range of topics that the experiences of those caring for dying people have been combined with professional knowledge to create this comprehensive manual of caring.

I found the book easy to read, although, when read straight through, the question-and-answer style can become tedious. However, it is in an ideal format for the target audience to use as a reference manual. The questions serve as an index system for back reference as and when problems emerge.

There are, inevitably, sections of this American publication, which will be irrelevant to the readers in other countries. Sources of help and information, hospice addresses and some of the practical preparations need to be read as a stimulant to enquire about the provision of these services locally.

In general the book tackles important issues which are so often overlooked. Coming to terms with death and talking about dying are discussed in a very open and honest manner. I particularly liked the correlation drawn out between the emotions of grief experienced by the carer, both before and after the death, and the dying person. The chapter on bereavement is wide-ranging and very down-to-earth in its questioning, and the answers give a reassuring and positive response. I believe this book would help the family and friends of the dying and, likewise, be a useful addition to the library of a Care Assistant.

Joan Morgan
Cruse National Development Officer for Wales

ABSTRACTS

Bereavement Network: A Community Based Group.

Kirschling JM, Osmont K. *Omega* 1992–3; **26**(2): 119–127.

In 1958 a small group of professionals working with bereaved persons in Portland, Oregon, formed a community-based group called the Bereavement Network. The organisation has since expanded to include lay persons also involved with bereavement. Members of the Network meet regularly, and they collect and disseminate information about services, such as counsellors, hospice and hospital bereavement co-ordinators, chaplains and volunteers. The Network consists of about 70 people, and is regarded as being a positive force in the community.

Family Distancing Following a Fatal Farm Accident

Rosenblatt PC, Karis TA. *Omega* 1993–4; **28**(3):183–200.

Farming is one of the most dangerous occupations in the USA and fatal accidents can lead to distancing among the families of the bereaved.

For this study, 21 farming families identified factors that had led to such distancing, mainly between spouses, children and in-laws. The article explores five such factors: blaming and fear of blame; the economic crisis that may exist when the farm operator is killed; family differences over the expression of feelings; the pre-occupation and emotional flatness of bereavement; and the role of kinship beliefs and attitudes among in-laws.

The Effect of Cause of Death on Responses to the Bereaved: Suicide Compared to Accident and Natural Causes

Allen BG, Calhoun LG, Cann A, Tedeschi RG. *Omega* 1993–4; **28**(1): 29–48.

This American study, which is partly based on an MA thesis in psychology, compares the experience of bereavement when the death was caused by suicide with that felt when death was the result of an accident or heart attack. The authors conclude that in the first case the survivors are more likely to experience guilt and a sense of responsibility, and to feel stigmatised by society. The article makes some useful points, but there are many technical terms and it is somewhat repetitive and verbose.

An Omega Interview

Silverman PR. *Omega* 1993–4; **28**(4): 251–260.

In this interview Dr Silverman, who set up a Widow-to-Widow Program, discusses the impact of death on wives and husbands whose spouses die, and on children who lose a parent.

Specifically, in her Program Dr Silverman found that widows were most helped by talking to other widows. Fewer men join mutual help groups; they articulate their loss differently, focusing less on their feelings and more on the practical consequences of what is happening. Children who lose a parent have about three times as many emotional problems as those who do not experience bereavement, especially if there were prior tensions in the family. However, this does not necessarily mean that they cannot form relationships, do well in school, and anticipate the future in a positive way.

Organizational Responses to Death in the Military

Bartone PT, Ender MG. *Death Studies* 1994; **18**(1): 25–37.

This article deals with the procedure followed by the US Army in helping individuals who have lost a family member or a friend through death in war or training. Between World War II and the present day, great strides have been made in, for instance, the way in which survivors are informed of the death, in the practical and psychological help which is available, and in the follow-up. The article is extremely interesting but can, of course, be of only academic use for non-American, non-military readers.

'A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words': A Strategy for Grief Education

Gould JB. *Death Studies* 1944; **18**(1): 65–74.

James Gould describes a programme he has instituted at McHenry County College, US, for educating students in grief education. The students are aged from 17 to 70; some have experienced bereavement, while others take the course for professional reasons. The procedure involves gathering personal data and constructing visual models describing the grief process of those taking part. The aim of this small-scale study is to help students become active participants rather than passive spectators in dealing with their own grief or with that of other people.

Sheila Hodges and John Bush

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