REVIEWS

ABSTRACTS

Anger and the Desire for Retribution among Bereaved Parents

Drenovsky CK. *Omega* 1994; **29**(4): 303-312.

This study investigates two emotional experiences of bereaved parents which have received little attention: anger towards the child for dying, especially if the death was sudden; and a feeling that someone must be punished for the death. A questionnaire was completed by 78 parents (39 couples) from which it emerged that during the previous week about one-third, mainly the mothers, had experienced anger, and rather fewer, mainly the fathers, the desire for retribution.

The authors suggest that appropriate techniques should be developed for counselling in such cases.

Therapy-Assisted Growth after Parental Suicide: from a Personal and Professional Perspective

Dalke D. *Omega* 1994; **29**(2): 113-151.

For three years after their father committed suicide, Dr Dalke counselled the dead man's two daughters, aged nine and five at the time of his death. This long article describes the counselling progress and the gradual healing experienced by the two girls, Dr Dalke stresses how important it is to children bereaved in this way to be able to express their grief, through talking about it and drawing pictures, and perhaps through the use of stuffed animals and toys. He believes the healing process was helped because he, the girls and their mother always faced the suicide with complete honesty.

This fascinating and deeply moving study, which is told partly in the words of the girls themselves, is likely to be of great use to counsellors facing a similar situation.

Life after Death of a Child: Initial and Long-Term Support from Others.

Brabant S, Forsyth C, McFarlain G. *Omega* 1995; **35**(1): 67-85.

This interesting and clearly-written article discusses an investigation into the support which was given to a number of bereaved parents by their families, friends, their bosses and workmates, and the clergy. Nine sets of parents were interviewed. In the main, families and friends were least supportive, whereas workmates, and sometimes the clergy, were sympathetic and helpful. The families and friends were too wounded themselves, or too embarrassed, to talk about the loss, whereas contacts at work were able to do so. The authors give convincing reasons for this seeming paradox, and suggest ways in which counsellors can help both the parents and the family members and friends who would like to support them but do not know how to do so.

Ethical Issues in Bereavement Research

The March-April 1995 issue of *Death Studies*, **19** (2) is entirely devoted to this topic and contains the following useful and informative articles:

Ethical Issues in Bereavement Research: An Overview

Cook AS. 103-122

Bereavement Research Using Control Groups: Ethical Obligations and Questions

Balk DE. 123-138

Ethics of Qualitative Interviewing with Grieving Families

Rosenblatt PC. 139-155

The Experience of Participating in Bereavement Research: Stressful or Therapeutic?

Cook AS, Bosley G. 157-170

Guidelines for Conducting Ethical Bereavement Research

Parkes CM. 171-181

Sheila Hodges and John Bush

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