EDITORS
Colin Murray Parkes
OBE MD DPM FRCPsych
Dora Black
MB FRCPsych FRCPCH DPM

ADVISORY EDITORS
Ofra Ayalon PhD, Israel
Anthony Clare MD FRCP FRCPI FRCPsych, Ireland
Tom Lundin MD PhD, Sweden
Prof Robert Pynoos MD MPh, USA
Prof Henk Schut PhD, The Netherlands
Prof Lars Weisaeth MD PhD FNPA, Norway
Prof Robert Weiss PhD, USA

MANAGING EDITOR
Rosie Dalzell BSc CertEd

SUBSCRIPTION RATE 1998
Individual Subscribers
(ie paid for by an individual subscriber for personal use)
UK: *£15.00*
Republic of Ireland: *IR £16.00*
USA: *US $40.00*
Canada: *CAN $55.00*
Australia: *AUST $52.00*
All other countries: *Stg £16.00*

Libraries and Organisations
(eg hospitals, departments, colleges, hospices, companies; paid for by organisation and/or for multiple readership)
UK: *£27.00*
Republic of Ireland: *IR £29.00*
USA: *US $62.00*
Canada: *CAN $82.00*
Australia: *AUST $79.00*
All other countries: *Stg £29.00*

PUBLISHED BY
Cruse Bereavement Care
126 Sheen Road
Richmond, Surrey TW9 1UR, UK
Telephone 0181 940 4818
Fax 0181 940 7638

Bereavement Care is published three times a year in Spring, Summer and Winter.

All prices are inclusive of airmail postage. Payment may be made by cheque, money order or credit card (Mastercard, Eurocard, Access, Visa).

Bereavement Care is sold subject to the condition it shall not be lent, resold, reproduced, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher's consent.

The editors welcome advertisements and inserts, but do not necessarily associate themselves with the views of advertisers or books advertised.

Most back numbers available at £3.00 plus 35p postage (UK).

BEST OF BEREAVEMENT CARE
Packs of selected articles from past issues grouped in themes are available from the publishers at prices from £2.85 to £6.50.

COPYRIGHT ©
Cruse Bereavement Care 1998
ISSN 0268-2621

Designed by Baseline Creative, Bath
Printed by Doppler Press, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4RX

EDITORIAL

Dora Black

Reading of the award of the Nobel Prize for economics to Professor Amartya Sen, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge for his work on the economics of famine, reminded me of his inspiring lecture to the second International Conference on Grief and Bereavement in London in 1988 (reproduced in *Bereavement Care* 1988; **7** (3): 26-29) in which he related the personal experiences of himself and his two children, then aged eight and ten, when his wife died of cancer.

'It could not, of course, compensate for the gigantic loss they had suffered in their mother's death, but the sharp increase in our closeness meant that precisely when [the children] sustained their terrible loss, they also gained something that was not there before.' – Amartya Sen

He had been the more 'distant' parent both because of the demands of his work and the outstanding maternal qualities of his wife, and he described with his customary clarity the adjustments her death forced on the father-child relationships. He pointed out that, rather unexpectedly, the limited nature of their previous relationship lent more scope for it to develop, 'for something additional coming into their blighted and suddenly reduced lives. It could not, of course, compensate for the gigantic loss they had suffered in their mother's death but the sharp increase in our closeness meant that precisely when they sustained their terrible loss, they also gained something that was not there before.'

He described how he encouraged the children to think positively about the future by getting them involved in helping him decide which job offer he should accept. He knew that things were going rather well when he overheard his son on the phone saying 'Oh, Stanford? We are thinking about it'!

One lesson counsellors could take from his experiences, as related to the conference, is the importance of being available to their clients. His wife had found helpful her sessions with a specialist counsellor provided for her by the hospital, but this counsellor was 'busy elsewhere' and unavailable for more than two weeks when she most needed her.

How can we balance the competing needs of our clients, our families, and ourselves? In this issue O'Regan challenges those of us who provide services to the dying and bereaved to devise ways of meeting those needs, Daniel describes a way of understanding and treating bereaved families, Finlay looks at how schools deal with bereavement and Panufnik, herself a distinguished writer, as Camilla Jessell, of children's fiction, surveys the recent books for children, dealing with bereavement.