Bereavement Care

for all who help the bereaved

Volume 3 No. 1 **Spring 1984**

The more we know the more we need to know

We have learnt so much about bereavement in the first 25 years of Cruse, and about how best to support bereaved people. We must by now have as much, if not more, detailed information and know-how than any other organisation about the varied emotional responses and changing needs of widows and widowers. We can not only chart, but also influence, society's slowly improving response to death and bereavement. Cruse is now the major channel through which society expresses its concern for the bereaved—through governmental support, through the assistance sought by the media, through the devoted work of over 3,000 Cruse voluntary workers, and so on.

Yet there is much, much more to learn and to work at. At our Jubilee Conference of Branches in May we shall be studying the needs of ethnic cultures in bereavement, attitudes to sexuality, and homosexual bereavement, among many other subjects. Not only in minority and specialised needs, but also in the main area of supporting bereaved folk, we have to go on caring more sensitively and more effectively.

This journal has a significant rôle to play in that caring, and in the spread of our tested ideas. Some recent articles, such as Dora Black's on family counselling after a parent's death, have already made their mark among academics studying aspects of this subject. Other articles are particularly directed to Cruse counsellors and workers. We now ask for more suggestions for articles, more letters. Please use **Bereavement Care** to fly kites, and for (amicable!) argument. Please tell the editors what you want to read.

JUBILEE UPDATE

Cruse in Parliament

An exhibition demonstrating the work of Cruse is being mounted in the Upper Waiting Hall of the House of Commons in the first week of April. It is sponsored by Mr. Paul Dean, MP, (Deputy Speaker & Patron of Cruse) and the DHSS.

Jubilee Gatherings

Four regional gatherings are planned: in Cardiff on 7th July, in Edinburgh on 21st July, in Leeds on 1st September and in Exeter on 6th October. Cruse workers are asked to obtain tickets from their Branch Secretary. The national gathering of Cruse members and workers is to be at the Albert Hall, Kensington, on 8th November.

Links with the Churches

We have had considerable response to an approach made to Christian denominations, raising the possibility of special services or sermons focusing on bereavement, and also telling them about Cruse's work. A number of cathedral, abbey and church services are now fixed, mostly in Cruse Week (6th-13th October). Denominations prepared to circulate our information packs, or write about Cruse in their own regular mailings, include the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church in Britain, the Church in Wales, the Methodist & United Reformed Churches, the Baptist Union, the Salvation Army and the Moravian Church. We estimate that over 10,000 information packs will be going out from Cruse House before the end of March.

Since our last issue, Cruse Branches have opened at:

Cynon Valley: (Mr. Gerald Richards, 18 Albert Street, Aberdare, Mid-Glamorgan. Tel: 0685 878000.)
Ogwr Valley: (Mrs. Edwina McLaren, 26 Picton Avenue, Porthcawl, Mid-Glamorgan. Tel: Porthcawl 2949).
Kilmarnock: (Mary Kean, 39 Craigie Avenue, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire. Tel: 0563 28427.)
South Bedfordshire: (Mrs. Olga Theobald, 101 Norman Road, Barton-le-Clay, Beds. MK45 4PX. Tel: Luton 882472.)
Kirkcaldy: (Rev. L. E. Kirkman, 19 Bennochy Road, Kirkcaldy, Scotland KY2 5QU. Tel: Kirkcaldy 268059).

There are Steering Committees currently working at:

Bath, Belfast, Blackpool, Bracknell, Burnley, Colchester, Coventry, Doncaster, Port Talbot, Guildford, High Wycombe, Melton Mowbray & Suffolk Coastal.

Published by cruse The National Organisation for the Widowed and their Children. Registered Charity No. 208078.