unknown to the staff, was not liked and that made both teachers and pupils feel worse about his death. All the teachers behaved as one would have wished, especially the art teacher—comforting, encouraging open discussions, acknowledging the universality of guilt, providing an explanation for the death, and returning the class to the task of getting on with life. There was a nice vignette of the girls trying to comfort Mr. Baxter, the swimming teacher, who was very low, and had offered his resignation—guilt occurs in teachers too.

The writer and producers are to be congratulated for tackling a difficult subject so courageously. What was its impact on the young audience it seeks to influence? Simon, a young patient of mine, was very much affected. He is due to move from private school to comprehensive soon, and saw Jeremy's fate (to be hated and to die) as potentially his. Others will identify with those who teased and ostracised Jeremy, and will perhaps modify their cruelties. Unfortunately the next week's episode made no reference at all to Jeremy —it was as if he had never existed. I hope his death will continue to have some impact on the lives of Grange Hill's pupils, and that we will be allowed to share in the experience.

DORA BLACK

LIVING WITH LOSS

Liz McNeill Taylor, Fontana, 1983, £1.75

Liz McNeill Taylor was widowed at the age of 40, and left to bring up four children. Her book is an extremely moving and at times devastating account of her experience. Immensely readable, it also contains down-to-earth advice on children, money and sex. There is special emphasis on the importance of expressing and sharing grief, and allowing children to mourn too.

There is a strong ring of challenge throughout the book, and Cruse in particular comes in for some harshly dismissive comments. The author forgets that without a firm support base, renewal and progress (both major Cruse aims) are difficult to achieve. An alternative name for "a collection of outcasts", as she describes us, might be a mutual support group!

Liz McNeill Taylor undoubtedly comes across as an immensely warm, humorous and interesting woman, with obvious talents. My main reservation is that some widows who read her book may be made to feel inadequate, or even guilty about their own rather more frail ability to rebuild. Equally, there will, I am sure, be many others who will be uplifted and energised by her positive approach to widowhood.

WYN ROSS
Newcastle Cruse

COPING WITH A DYING RELATIVE

Derek Doyle MacDonald Publishers, 1984, hardback £5.95, paperback £2.95

The fundamental thought behind the working of this book is that, given the choice, most people would prefer to die at home with their families. Many relatives, however, do have an unspoken fear that they will not be able to cope. either with the practical nursing needs or the emotional strain.

The book is written to help relatives with all the problems, in the hope that the task will become less daunting, and families will also know where to ask for help. The author also hopes that the experience will even be deeply enriching for some families.

There is an inspiring foreword by Dame Cicely Saunders.

THE COUNSELLING RELATIONSHIP

Susan Oldfield, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1983, £5.95

Susan Oldfield's book is the result of the careful monitoring of the work of the Isis Centre in Oxford which was set up in 1970.

Only a handful of the 140 cases in the book presented with bereavement difficulties, but the relevance of the book to Cruse and other bereavement counsellors lies in the clear definitions of the presenting problems, of the sessions offered, and of the outcome of the work done. The definitions of the work done were made both by the counsellors and the clients, who were asked, when counselling ceased, to give their own assessment of the value of the sessions to them.

WHEN PEOPLE DIE

Guinevere Williams & Julia Ross, MacDonald Publishers, 1984, £3.50

When People Die is a carefully written book for older children, with black and white illustrations. It could be a real help to children who are fearful of the rituals, of their own alarming feelings, and of the strange words adults use, like "condolence" or "taboo". The book admirably covers the customs followed by different religious and ethnic groups, and could well be used in schools as a start to discussions.

LIFE & DEATH

Association for Sp'na Bifida & Hydrocephalus, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HJ, 1983, 75p & 19p postage

The Association for Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus (ASBAH) has recently produced a booklet which should be of considerable comfort to families faced with the death of a child or young person from one of these diseases. The seven short chapters include some from parents who have been through such an ordeal. Other supportive chapters come from Dr. Lindy Burton, Consultant Psychologist, Rev. Sydney Callaghan of the Samaritans, and Colette Welch of ASBAH. The booklet could also be extremely valuable to health care and social workers who come across these diseases and their tragic implications; it indicates many detailed ways in which these families can be helped at every stage.

CONFERENCES & COURSES

Lisa Sainsbury Educational Foundation Conference

St. Christopher's Hospice is running a four-day conference at the Strand Palace Hotel, on 18th, 19th, 20th & 21st June, 1984. It is for nurses working in hospitals, hospices and the community, covering all aspects of the needs of terminally ill children, adolescent and the elderly and their families. Speakers will be drawn from Britain and overseas. Table and open discussion will form an important part of the proceedings. Each day's programme will be an entity in itself, and separate days may be booked.

There may be limited funds available to assist nurses to attend. Accommodation at concessionary rates may be booked at the Strand Palace Hotel.

Detailed programme & application form from the Study Centre, St. Christopher's Hospice, 51/53 Lawrie Park Road, London SE26 6DZ. Please enclose an sae.

Westminster Pastoral Foundation

The Foundation's Summer Short Course programme includes four experiential evening workshops about *Being on your Own*, weekend workshops on *Is Counsellor Training for You? Communicating with Greater Effect*, and *Towards the Second Half*, and Saturday workshops on *Cancer & Counselling* (14th April), *Step-Parenting* (12th May), *Good Grief* (5th May) and *Understanding Group Therapy* (16th June).

The Foundation's summer full-time course in pastoral counselling is from 9th-20th July. There are also regular part-time introductory counselling skills courses, and part-time specialist training in group-work and family and marital therapy. For details send a large sae to: Westminster Pastoral Foundation, 23 Kensington Square, London, W.8.

The Search for Meaning

An International Conference on Pastoral Counselling and Spirituality.

The conference will be held between 22nd & 28th July, 1984 at All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 1AF.

Pastoral Counselling and Spirituality share a common interest in man's and women's search for meaning. Although much of their language and jargon seems so different, they both, like theology, draw upon the sense of sight to express the essence of their search. For theology it is revelation, for pastoral counselling insight, and for spirituality contemplation.

The initiative for this conference came from a group of American pastors, counsellors and their sponses. The British Association for Pastoral Care and Counselling was pleased to respond.

The conference will provide a unique and timely opportunity for participants from different countries, traditions and interests to look more deeply and broadly at their own and one another's words, activities and beliefs.

The presentations during the conference will follow a life cycle theme: Birth—beginning; Childhood & Adolescence—becoming; Adulthood & Vocation—deciding; Mid-Life—losing & keeping; Death—dying & living. The presenters include Carolyn Reinhart of the Post Green Community; Dr. Peter Bruggen, adolescent psychiatrist & family therapist; John Austin Baker, Bishop of Salisbury, Chairman of 'The Church & the Bomb' Committee; Barbara & Duane Parker of Rhode Island State Hospital & American Association for Clinical Pastoral Education; Derek Nuttall, Director of Cruse.

For further details and an application form, please apply to Lorna Brockett, 123 Blythe Road, London W14 0HL. enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.