

# -Derek Nuttall writes

A COLUMN OF MY OWN! AN opportunity to share ideas and plans and to engage in very necessary reflection.

Looking back there are few in Cruse now who can see the whole of our twenty-three years. About seventy per cent of people now involved have come in during the last five years. Yet how important it is to remember the past, using its lessons as a guide. If Cruse is a book, we are certainly several chapters on but there are times when we need to recap.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

For instance, there is a lot of symbolism in the story of the cruse of oil from which our name comes. Maybe we should suggest that Committees and workers in Cruse, particularly new ones, read it and discuss its relevance for Cruse in the 1980's.

I will offer to do a modern interpretation of the story

at the next Branch A.G.M. I am invited to address!

Having got this far with my first column it looks as if the pattern is going to be a mixture of philosophy and practicality.

## PLANS IN PIPELINE

What of the immediate future? In the pipeline is the application to the D.H.S.S. for our next triennial grant; a major conference on Bereavement Following Violence in 1983; a phased publicity campaign throughout 1982; our Silver Jubilee in 1984; and Council has agreed in principle to the appointment of a Training/Research Officer (now we have to find the money). We are looking thoroughly at the question of whether we should extend our service to all bereaved people and, if it is considered we should, what would be involved. International connections continue to develop as a result of my membership of the Executive of F.I.A.V., the International



Federation of Widow and Widower Organisations, and through visitors from overseas to Cruse House and in some cases to Branches, and work done by our Council members and others.

## REVIEW OF ISSUES

Harking back to my opening comments, I believe that taking time to think about what is happening is not a luxury but a necessity in our kind of work and I would like again to commend to Branches the practice of an annual review. Those branches that have tried it report its value not only in the clarification of issues, but also in the greater sense of sharing and teamwork which benefits everyone.

● As part of a campaign to raise the counselling consciousness of their area two workers with MOLE VALLEY branch role-played the parts of counsellor and young widower in a public demonstration of bereavement counselling before an audience of 70 at their February A.G.M.

● Only four months after their inauguration as a branch, BRISTOL has opened its own office at 17 Whiteladies Road, Bristol.

● NORTH WALES has its first Cruse Area Organiser. Mrs. Elisa Davies began work this month as A.O. for North Wales and Western England. She is a former secretary for a Council for Voluntary Service.

● New Cruse branches have opened at BANBURY, KENSINGTON/CHELSEA,

LICHFIELD, BASILDON and DUNFERMLINE. To inaugurate soon are Steering Committees at DACORUM (May 10), TRURO (June 3) and MAIDSTONE (June 24).

● Because of the demand for their services, GREENWICH AND BEXLEY branch plans to divide into two separate branches next month.

● The advantage of advertising branch services on the City's

buses is being investigated by Mrs. Roz Wilkins, Publicity Officer at SOUTHAMPTON Cruse.

● Libby Insall of TWICKENHAM and Tessa Brown from EALING spoke from the audience during BBC television's "Choices" last month. The proposition: that patients have an undeniable right to be told they are dying. Cruse patron Dame Cicely Saunders was among the panellists.

## Wonderful world of medical certificates

Dear Sir,

The enclosed medical certificate is returned because we cannot accept bereavement as an incapacity. Please ask your doctor to issue a duplicate medical certificate.

Seen in "World Medicine"