

of self-inking stamps capable of printing many thousands of times before fitting a replacement pad. What is important is a facility for changing the "message" for a reasonable cost.

After carefully studying the economic aspects I can highly recommend Trodat equipment, for which a first-class direct service is available from Mark C. Brown & Son Ltd PO Box 69, 4 Baker St., Hull, HU2 8HS. They send a catalogue if you ask them. My recommendation is the self-inking stamp model 4204 which last year cost £12.24p plus VAT, including cost of die for the six line "message".

As a branch organising secretary for a limited period I had our letterheads printed with all officers names except that of secretary, for which I used a Trodat "Printy" model 4912. It had previously had another name and address. I bought a new rubber die and fixed it myself. Cost of die £5.25p plus VAT.

PATRICK LANGFIER

(Continued from page 3) HOW IT ALL BEGAN...

to be met. The counselling of widows, group meetings, Parents' Circles and amenity schemes had to be covered and routine office work as well. There were interviews to be dealt with, plans for local work, public speaking, publicity articles and appeals and an increasing number of publications were needed both to inform others and to help membership. Widows wrote in from all over the country and we kept our policy of helping all ourselves or making contact with organisations with whom they could be put in touch.

A CLEARING HOUSE

We worked through our statutory and voluntary contacts and with M.P.'s too. We were, in fact, soon to be known as a "clearing house" of information for the widowed. Men who had been widowed came to us too but so inundated were we with widows' work that we felt

the time was not then ripe to take on their problems. That we hoped would come later.

We always found the Press helpful but were soon aware that their interest loaded us with work without giving the financial help. We had to hold back until we could reach what people called "the big money." It was after my husband's death that we learned we might be given a Government Grant for administrative costs but we would have to raise funds to buy premises.

We secured the Grant and were able to move into Cruse House in 1975. Our Grant also covered the salary of our National Organiser who joined us in 1974. On my retirement Derek Nuttall took over as Director.

Looking back I can see how urgently our work was needed and how establishing an understanding of the bereaved has filtered through to every conceivable profession where caring for others is taken into account.

I do not see an end to the work of Cruse while people care for each other as individuals in a family setting.

DIARY

INSTITUTE OF FAMILY THERAPY
(LONDON), 5 Tavistock Place,
London W.C.1.

Life Span Psychology: Implications
for Family Therapy. Dr. Patricia
Minuchin, PH.D.

Three sessions of three hours,
5-8 pm April 21 and 28 and
May 5, 1982.

SCHOOL OF ADVANCED URBAN STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL, Grange Rd.,
BRISTOL.

Seminar: Social services and
Social Security - new developments
and emergent issues. May 5-7.1982.

For details of all NVCO courses
listed below, please contact
Jenny Hill, Management Training
Officer, National Council for
Voluntary Organisations, 26 Bedford
Square, London WC1B 3HU.

One day seminar for Chairmen of
Voluntary Management Committees.
May 13 London; June 24 Manchester;
October 14 Leeds; November 11 Bristol.

Making Meetings Work, two-day
seminar. May 4-5 Bristol;
October 12-13 London.

Effective Speaking, two-day work-
shop. June 3-4 London, November
23-24 Leeds.

Grantmanship workshop. Two day
discussion led by advisers from
Government, Trusts and NVCO.
April 20-21 Manchester and
September 29-30 London.

Fundraising workshop - two days.
September 27-28 London.

Management in a team setting.
Two-day course to help partici-
pants to take action to improve
growth and performance of their
team and individuals.
April 15-16 Coventry; June 16-17
Manchester; October 21-22 Leeds;
November 18-19 Bristol.

Developing the Secretary's Role.
Two-day course London November 2-3.