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# EDITORIAL

Colin Murray Parkes

Information about bereavement is scattered across a wide range of journals, books, course papers, videotapes and web pages and emanates from an equally wide range of disciplines including psychology, psychiatry, palliative care, sociology, religion and medicine. *Bereavement Care* attempts to keep readers up to date by drawing on all of these sources and it welcomes articles that review particular aspects and topics.

Other sources of information which

are likely to be of interest to you are the lists of publications produced by Cruse Bereavement Care; these include books and leaflets for bereaved people as well as for professionals. Specialist journals which publish many articles on bereavement include *Omega*, *Death Studies* and *Mortality*. Each has its own special ethos although there is overlap between them. Organisations such as ADEC (the Association for Death Education and Counselling) and the American Academy of Bereavement News provide their own lists with a transatlantic flavour, as does the Internet. This last gives much too much information but links to some of the better sites are given on GriefNet (<http://griefnet.org/home.html>).

All in all, bereavement seems to be generating a lot of words and it is valid to ask whether the effort needed to read them and to keep up to date

is worth it. After all, grief has been around for a long time, do we have much more to learn about it?

As one who has been trying to keep up to date on the subject for 50 years, I recognise that many of the 'new' ideas about bereavement and loss are not all that new! Yet the moment I begin to think I understand the subject, something pops up to remind me that

I still have a lot to learn. In fact, the more I learn about bereavement the more questions arise.

In this issue we shall consider important topics including group help for bereaved people, ways of preventing suicide and other problems among bereaved adolescents, the management of organ donation and differences between western and eastern cultures in their handling of this problem. These are a small proportion of the numerous questions that are likely to come to the attention of bereavement counsellors and other members of the caring professions. It is our aim to provide authoritative answers where answers are possible and to stimulate research and debate when they are not. In this way we hope to widen the range of skills and deepen the knowledge with which our readers attempt to meet the diverse needs of bereaved people. We hope that *Bereavement Care* will come to be seen as essential reading for all who provide this care.