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Cover. Amelia Ellis, aged five weeks, daughter of Rachael and Gary, at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, UK. Amelia's twin, Harry, died a few hours after birth. Anne Aldridge discusses the crucial role of hospital staff after a perinatal loss (p23).

EDITORIAL

Martin Newman

IN THIS ISSUE, Anne Aldridge discusses the subject of perinatal loss, and considers the implications of recent research. Paul Boelen explains how CBT may be of help in working with those experiencing complicated grief. Peter Goble offers a personal perspective on bereavement, illustrated by a Buddhist parable. In Part 2 of 'Therapies for children and adolescents', Gillian Forrest completes her update on treatment modalities. We also include an article by Colin Murray Parkes and Matthew Hotopf on the role of antidepressants in the treatment of clinical depression. The internet is an increasingly valuable resource, and this issue's Webwatch is a review of sites for the self-treatment of anxiety, panic disorders and other phobias by Miguel Fullana and Isaac Marks.

Dora Black, who has been closely associated with *Bereavement Care* since 1982, reflects on the changes in maternal mortality rates in Europe over the past 70 years, having seen a portrait diptych painted by Cranach in 1509. I was recently moved by an exhibition at the Wellcome Collection in London, of photographic portraits by Walter Schels, taken during the period 2002-2004 in hospices in northern Germany, of 24 people who were terminally ill. Each had agreed to be photographed shortly before and immediately after death. Alongside the photographs were brief descriptions about each person, prepared by Beate Lakotta, accompanied by their words. One said, 'It's only now that I have cancer that I really want to live'. Another, 'This is an emergency. I don't want to die'. A 68-year-old lady asked, 'Can't death wait?' A 52-year-old man talked of his visitors, saying 'No-one asks me how I feel. I find it really upsetting the way they desperately avoid the subject, talking about all sorts of other things. Don't they get it? I'm going to die! That's all I think about, every second when I'm on my own.' An octogenarian chose to recall words by Goethe: 'Nothing that is can fall into nothingness. The eternal lives on in all it has created'.

It was clear from the reactions of those viewing the exhibition that the words and photographs resonated with many, sometimes reminding them of past bereavements, yet also motivating and inspiring them and others. Photographs, paintings, music, and literature may provoke us into thinking about what it means to be alive, to be human, to love, and be loved. They may also be sources of inspiration and comfort to the bereaved, to those near to death, and to each of us as we face future bereavements and, indeed, our own mortality. ●

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