

diagnosis or commenting on a specific case history. A comment about management or diagnosis may undermine a patient's confidence in the treating doctor.

Appearances in the media are not for the faint-hearted or the person who shrinks from debate or disagreement. Moreover, the workload will increase, largely due to 'fan-mail', but sometimes

due to misunderstandings and criticism. Inevitably one will unwittingly provoke debate, cause annoyance or even downright jealousy. It is worth all of this and more if ultimately attitudes to psychiatry and to our patients change.

Patricia Casey, *Professor of Psychiatry, Unversity College, Dublin, Ireland*

Video news

Videotape review

When Our Baby Died

This video, and the accompanying book, have been produced by the team who developed the training video 'Death at Birth' for professionals involved in the care of bereaved parents. The video contains a series of interviews with seven families from a variety of socio-cultural backgrounds who have all experienced the death of their baby. Emphasis during the interviews is on their experiences of mourning. The video then goes on to show a group of parents being helped to communicate their feelings and experiences during a one day group. At the end of the video a list of useful organisations is provided. The accompanying booklet provides vignettes of each of the families who contributed to the video and their experiences, followed by sections entitled Ways of Grieving; Remembering; Memorials; Talking; Caring for yourself; Children and grief; Grandparents; and Parents of babies who died a long time ago. Again a list of useful organisations is provided and a bibliography.

This video has been produced to help parents facing the long process of mourning the death of their baby. It has been sensitively produced, and the families who contributed to it cover a wide range of emotional reactions and ways of grieving. However, I remain doubtful about the role of such a video in the care of families suffering this kind of traumatic experience. While it is extremely educative for professionals and lay

people, I feel that many newly bereaved parents will be at too early a stage of grieving to cope with being exposed to the traumatic experiences of other families. I feel it would be appropriate for psychiatrists and others to recommend it at a later stage or else to use it within a counselling session where parents can be supported with the emotional impact of watching the video.

The booklet *Grieving after the Death of your Baby* is highly recommended.

GILLIAN FORREST

Tape details

Ratings	Audience
***highly recommended	P psychiatrists
**recommended	M multidisciplinary
*worth looking at	UG undergraduate
O no rating	PG postgraduate

When Our Baby Died

Production: Jenni Thomas, Nancy Kohner, Professional Care Productions Ltd.

Distributor: Professional Care Productions Ltd., 1 Millside, Riversdale, Bourne End, Bucks. SL8 5EB.

Details: £14.99; sale.

Rating/audience: *M.