

## BOOK REVIEWS

### **Counselling Skills in Palliative Care**

**Davy J, Ellis S.**

**ISBN 0 335 20312 4**

**Open University Press**

Health and social care are not short of books on counselling. Indeed, the development of counselling as a therapeutic tool has been a major area of growth in recent years. Do we need, therefore, another book on counselling skills aimed at palliative care professionals? Reading this book by Davy and Ellis, the answer is "yes!" For this is not a book to encourage us to become counsellors, or to advocate the use of trained counsellors in all settings. Instead it recognises the empowering effect the use of good counselling skills can have in all aspects of the care offered, and it encourages the reader to develop good professional practice through specific insights and interventions. The authors, from their psychology and nursing backgrounds, clearly understand palliative care, emphasising as they do the importance of listening, accepting, and eliciting the feelings and the fears patients have in the face their mortality. They helpfully weave together theory and practice, by using a series of carefully chosen 'vignettes' which, when drawn upon in the subsequent text, clarify the issues in a relevant and understandable way. This is a readable and helpful book, and will be a useful addition to the personal and professional bookshelves of all palliative care professionals.

*Tom Gordon is chaplain at the Marie Curie Centre Fairmile, Edinburgh.*

### **Crossing Over: Narratives of Palliative Care**

**Barnard D, Towers A, Boston P,**

**Lambrinidou Y.**

**ISBN 0-19-512343-3**

**Oxford University Press**

This most readable book of narratives has been written for anyone with an interest in how people die, but is primarily written for professionals or teachers in palliative care. Through a vivid description of 20 case studies the authors offer a refreshing look at the 'taken for granted' aspects of dying and caring for

the dying. It depicts the sight, sounds, tastes and smells of daily life in patients' homes and in the hospice setting, exploring how individuals find personal meaning in illness, and how this influences the experience and outcomes of care. It captures the diversity of people's aspirations and ideals as they face death, and the often challenging conflicts between their views of death and the views of the professionals who care for them. This book brings to life the anger and fear, tenderness and reconciliation, jealousy and love, unexpected courage and unshakable faith – which are all part of facing death. In the midst of such emotive detail the authors offer insightful commentary on the context and process of how we care.

The second and shorter section of the book outlines the research methodology of the study and raises challenging questions about particular issues in each narrative. These are useful for individual or group consideration, but especially for interdisciplinary discussion. What is a good death? How can clinicians best discuss end of life issues with patients? To what extent do we meet patients' spiritual needs?

This book is a must for any who fear the syndrome of tunnel vision in their role of caring, and an invaluable resource for any library. The succinct accounts of the final journey emphasise the pre-eminence of peoples' psychosocial and spiritual needs. It powerfully challenges our well-defined ideals – bringing us face to face with human foibles, institutional limitations, problems of caring within a team context and the challenges of cultural diversity – daring us to be human in our caring of others.

*Marjory Mackay is a Macmillan Lecturer in Palliative Care, University of Glasgow UK.*

### **Scottish Religious Poetry. An anthology**

**eds. Meg Bateman, Robert Crawford, James McGonigal.**

**ISBN 0 7512 0775 X**

**Saint Andrew Press.**

This anthology is impressive in its sweep and breadth. It offers poetry spanning fifteen centuries of

Scottish life, written in most of the historical languages of Scotland, and giving an insight into how religion has shaped and continues to shape the history and psyche of the Scottish people. The editors have selected poems not so much for their piety as for their power and spiritual impact; the reader can expect to be surprised, moved, challenged and inspired by what can be found here, from the words of Columba to the best of what contemporary poets have to say. There are delights for anyone who loves the power and the resonance of words, especially words crafted in the context of Scottish history, culture and religion.

All life is here. We find expressions of doubt and pessimism, such as Carlyle's 'Cui Bono' or A C Jacobs' 'Supplication' (*'I cry unto you whom I do not believe in'*); there are wrestlings with the legacy of Calvinism, as in Sorley McLean's 'Funeral in Clachan', or with the spiritual anguish of the Clearances, voiced in Derick Thomson's 'Strathnaver'. On the other hand, we find the birth of Christ joyfully evoked in William Dunbar's 'Rorate Celi Desuper', and the devotional sensuality of 'O Great Mary, Listen to Me'. There are, too, poems which express a spirituality which seems to emerge from the very landscape :- Norman MacCaig's 'July Evening' (*'and grass is grace'*), or Kenneth White's 'High Blue Day on Scalpay'. The collection also includes some of the paraphrases, hymns and metrical psalms which have given a distinctive voice to Scottish worship across the centuries.

Time spent with this anthology cannot but be rewarded with a broadening of spiritual horizons and a deepening engagement with the human condition, as well as an increasing insight into how religion has shaped Scotland and vice versa. We are brought face to face with the power of words to express human yearnings after that which is beyond words, Kenneth White's *'ultimate unlettered light'*.

*Georgina Nelson is chaplain, St. John's Hospital, Livingston.*

**The Sorrows of Young Men - Exploring their increasing risk of suicide.**  
**eds. Morton A., Francis J.**  
**ISBN 1 870126 43 2**  
**Occasional Paper No. 45, Centre for Theology and Public Issues, New College, University of Edinburgh**

### **My Sweet Lover Suicide**

**Terry K.**

**ISBN 1 902134 16 8**

**Silver Fish Publishing, London**

Two recent publications offer contrasting perspectives on the complex issue of suicide in young people. *The Sorrows of Young Men* (hereafter *Sorrows*) is a collection of seven papers given at an Edinburgh conference in 1999. *Sorrows* seeks to examine the perceived increase in suicide rates amongst young men in Scotland within a wide context of possible causes, social trends and preventative measures.

Five main papers address these themes. Stephen Platt examines the complex epidemiology of suicide. Whilst incidence rates in Scotland does not compare unfavourably by international standards, Platt suggests that *trends* in suicide rates amongst young people in the 25-34 year-old category since 1970 give cause for alarm.

For young men in this age group, suicide rates since 1971 have tripled. Platt further presents data in the areas of risk factors, risk conditions and explanations before noting the lack of an evidence-based coordinated strategy of prevention.

Papers by Jochen Clasen and Gill Jones highlight key social factors contributing to vulnerability and uncertainty in young men. Clasen finds the classic identification of unemployment as a risk condition for suicide wanting. *Employment* itself, in terms of job insecurity, part-time hours and youth employment schemes, may be as much as a contribution to young men's unease about their place in the world. Jones' paper extends this analysis to include altered gender roles, the postponing of 'adulthood' decisions (e.g. marriage and career) and the high stress levels experienced as a result of living in a rapidly changing, but increasing uncertain, society.

Richard Holloway outlines possible key shifts in cultural and societal values undergirding such 'evidence'. The widespread effects of globalisation upon many of our deeply-held values, beliefs and social institutions is highlighted. One response is the rise of fundamentalism with its characteristic resistance to change. Paradoxically, for Holloway, it is the 'harshly defined religions' of a fundamentalist hue which offer the best protection against the vulner-

abilities of life, including suicide. Holloway echoes Durkheim's classic 19<sup>th</sup> century studies into suicide here, but to this reviewer his veiled criticism rings hollow. Religious faith is no guarantee against suicide, but its merit is surely in stating the principles of *life* and the types of support and comfort which faith can offer when other conditions make such living difficult.

In the final major paper, Cameron Stark, from a Highlands perspective, outlines a twin preventative approach: risk groups (young men with mental health problems, deliberate self-harm) and population targets (unemployment, alcohol counselling). Summary papers are presented by Andrew Fraser and Andrew Morton. All papers carry helpful tables, in addition to comprehensive bibliographies. A co-ordinated response to the rise in young men's suicide in Scotland is clearly required. *Sorrows* more than adequately sets the framework.

The poems in *My Sweet Lover Suicide* provide a personal contrast to the broad themes of *Sorrows*. These 67 poems are the work of Katie Terry, a 25-year woman who battled with a 10-year depression before taking own life in 1998. Terry writes within the context of a strong Christian faith, but most of her poems amplify key concerns of *Sorrows*: vulnerability, loneliness, relationship difficulties, misunderstanding, fear of rejection *and* acceptance. These are movingly illustrated in excerpts from *Scared of Life*:

You're scared of death  
So, I'm scared of life -  
Who is the stronger,  
Who is the weaker?

She who feared death  
Society accepts as a sister.  
She who fears life  
Society casts out, ignored.

My 'Life-Lover' fears death  
Which she knows nothing about.  
My Death-Lover' fears life  
Which she knows too much about.

Journal entries after each poem reveal the intense privacy of Terry's pain. No-one is aware of her depression, except the alluring figure of 'My Sweet Lover Suicide'.

Only her diary writing offers some form of relief. Terry painfully shows her desire to live, but also indicates the struggle to reconcile her suicidal ideas with her Christian faith. Her longer poems (*From the Cross, Gethsemane*) find Terry locating her 'solution' within the passion of Christ.

These two books challenge our pastoral care in two ways. The first is to prompt us to read carefully the cultural trends around us. The second calls for a greater acknowledgement of mental health issues within the Church and to the development of sensitive pastoral responses to such needs.

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**The Health Project Book**  
**Wood N (2001)**  
**ISBN 0 415 24321 1**  
**Routledge, London**

This book is aimed at students who are undertaking a piece of supervised research as part of a health related degree programme. The primary objective is to provide a practical guide to a range of research techniques which students have to consider when making decisions about how they wish to conduct their research project. As such this book does meet the identified objectives.

The book provides an overview of the steps involved in a research study from consideration of the initial idea through to writing the report. The book begins by emphasising the importance of planning in the research process and examines a range of research designs which the student researcher may consider. It provides an overview of both quantitative and qualitative to research and explores some of the issues which a researcher needs to consider when making a number of decisions along the research journey.

There are two useful chapters exploring the role of statistics in analysis of data which are provided at an introductory level using some helpful examples. An overview of the different qualitative approaches is also provided in the subsequent chapter and interestingly a chapter discussing the role of qualitative analysis software. The author also highlights changes which have taken place as technical procedures have evolved and provides a chapter exploring the role of the Internet in

accessing information. Furthermore a number of useful web addresses are also provided.

The chapter exploring the steps in writing a project report is particularly useful for students new to writing extended pieces of work. A range of sources for further exploration of particular aspects of health related research are provided; a useful resource for both students and more experienced researchers.

If you are looking for a philosophical discussion of the basis of different research approaches or an in depth exploration of a particular research approach this book is not for you. However, this book does do what it aims to do. It provides a practical guide to many aspects of conducting a research project in health care. It encourages students to approach their research studies in a systematic manner providing action points at the end of each chapter.

This book is recommended for novice researchers undertaking a research project for the first time in the field of health studies and would be a useful addition to a health care library.

*Jacquelyn Chaplin is Senior Lecturer at the Marie Curie Centre, Hunters Hill, Glasgow*

**Palliative Care in the Home**  
**Derek Doyle & David Jeffrey**  
**Oxford University Press**  
**ISBN 0-19-263227-2**

An update of an earlier book by Derek Doyle, *Domiciliary Palliative Care*, this text has also been written with an international audience in mind. Aimed primarily at doctors and nurses caring for people in their own homes, it is described by the authors as a 'recipe' rather than reference book. For busy professionals it therefore offers a useful handbook, uncluttered by references and lengthy arguments about the evidence base for various treatments. Nevertheless readers can be assured that the content is up-to-date and that it derives from a wealth of knowledge and experience of the two renowned palliative care physicians. For those who wish to examine the evidence base, a bibliography is included. However some of the texts seem a bit dated, particularly in relation to bereavement.

Whilst the book is easy to dip into if unsure about how to deal with particular pain and symptom prob-

lems it would be a pity if this was the only way it was used. Helpful advice is provided in relation to applying the underpinning principles of palliative care in the professional's approach and communication with patients, relatives and other team members. Indeed, one of the strengths of this text is the focus on the perspectives and needs of relatives caring for people at home. It considers the advantages and difficulties of continuing care at home and when hospital or hospice care might be appropriate and very helpfully how difficult communication issues might be explored with patients and families. Some of these more general aspects may also be relevant for a wider range of disciplines.

Although it is clearly not meant to be a comprehensive text its emphasis on problems arising in malignant disease reinforce the tendency to equate palliative care with cancer which does not reflect the wider remit of the primary care team. Another point of concern, which may be an editorial error, is in the ethical issues chapter where the reader is informed that physician-assisted suicide is against the law in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This could suggest that it is legal in other countries, including Scotland.

Despite minor criticisms this text would be a very valuable resource for general practitioners and community nurses, particularly when not faced by the challenges of palliative care on a daily basis. It is easy to dip into for quick tips on management of physical problems but also offers sound advice and food for thought in relation to the more mentally and emotionally challenging aspects of palliative care. Every health centre or surgery should have a book like this.

*Margaret C Sneddon is a Macmillan Lecturer in Palliative Care at the Department of Postgraduate Medical Education, University of Glasgow..*

**The Dying Process: Patients' experiences of palliative care**  
**Julia Lawton**  
**ISBN 0 281 05172 0**  
**SPCK**

This book with its attractive and appealing cover is neither a pleasant nor a comfortable read. It openly challenges the concept of a "good death" often considered a central tenet of hospices. The content is

not easily dipped into as it often involves lengthy esoteric and philosophical debate. It is based on the results of research in a Hospice in "contemporary" England. The research took place during 1994/5 clearly dating the book.

The aim of the research was to revise the concepts of Western self through empirical research on the experiences of dying patients receiving palliative care and to analyse the complex ways in which degeneration affects body, self and identity of carers. It is a bleak account of the researcher's experience and interestingly, she admits to feelings of despondency before the end of her fieldwork.

Despite this the book does provide an alternative to the existing unidimensional view of the dying process, by representing the integration of the physical, social and psychological dimensions of the dying process. However, spirituality is missing, and religious beliefs are mentioned only in a negative context.

The book is divided into day care and hospice care sections. Day care is depicted from the patients' perspective as a safe haven and a place to be normal. However, the professionals described their role as providing short packages of therapy. Lawton viewed this as the creation of an alternative reality, where deterioration and dependency are masked.

The chapters describing hospice care include a lengthy discussion about the sequestration (isolation) of the unbounded body, which is defined as literal erosion of the patient's physical boundaries. Lawton contests that 'boundedness' is related to personhood, and for some people it is impossible to reinstate, often leading to a complete loss of self, social death and finally physical death. Somewhat contentiously she states that hospices serve to remove patients' dirt, and the patient as dirt from the mainstream of society.

Despite my view that this book is not a comfortable read, interestingly it makes compelling reading, whilst consistently challenging throughout. It would be useful for any professional who has worked in palliative care for some time and become at ease with the concept, or as a tool to stimulate team discussion.

*Maria McGil is Clinical Services Manager, at the Marie Curie Centre, Hunters Hill, Glasgow.*

### **God of the Depths**

**Michael Howard**

**ISBN 0 281 05172 0**

**London, SPCK**

By grim coincidence, this book arrived on my desk at the same time as the tragic drama of the Russian submarine, the *Kursk*, with its 118 crew, was unfolding by the hour: a timely reminder of "those in peril on the sea". But if the deep has always been feared and fascinated for its power and mystery, it can also be a metaphor to describe life's experiences, particularly its crises and challenges. Michael Howard's book, written with the experience of thirty years of parish ministry and as hospital and university chaplain, is designed to help the reader make an inner journey of faith through dark times and doubt: to find God in the depths.

Beginning with an account of the sinking of the ferry *Estonia* and its implications for a country linked to the sea for its survival, Howard moves on to describe the Biblical imagery of the sea, from the primeval *tehom* to the Gospel narratives and beyond. Time and time again, the waters drive people back to God, just as we discover God in the very depths of depression or suffering. Understandably, Howard is suspicious of the notion of the Church as a bridge over troubled water. "We must be there with them *on the waters*" is a sentiment with which hospital chaplains will surely concur. (Howard cites the adverse reaction of Pope Adrian V to a painting of "The Barque of Peter" riding above the waves to prove his point.) His provocative conclusion serves as a warning against the "McDonaldised worship which has an answer to everything". Instead he calls the reader to embrace the vulnerability that lies beneath the surface of life and faith. For the seas will always be there. If we are willing to live 'on the edge' as Howard puts it, we shall grow in character (though precisely how is not made clear).

There are times that the analogy of the deep is stretched too far (as in his analysis of the Soviet "deluge") and the diagrams often confuse rather than help. Nor does Howard fully explore the *benevolence* of the deep in island societies and its potential for good. But these are minor quibbles. This is a thought-provoking little book, packed with useful

illustrations, from Elgar to Eliade and Murdoch to Moltmann, to remind us that God is where we least expect to find Him: even aboard the *Kursk* in its dying moments?

*Michael Ward is part-time chaplain to Orkney Health Board at Balfour Hospital/MacMillan House.*

**Unleashing the Lion: The Power of God in Health and Healing**

**Petrie E.**

**ISBN 0 281 05324 3**

**SPCK, London.**

This powerful book, *inter alia*, makes a strong case for a (to me) new view of how God relates to evil, of anger with God as a normal part of public prayer, and of how God may change His intentions because we ask Him to.

The author quotes, just after his title page, from C S Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* which I have elsewhere seen abused to make faith seem cosy. In fact, the quotation speaks of Aslan (the Narnian Christ) as being not "safe" – anything but cosy. Furthermore, Petrie, in his final chapter, gives the theme a startling twist with his image of the Lion of Judah as an uncared-for beast, caged by the Church because we are scared of His "unsafe" power - of which both Testaments give abundant evidence.

Petrie tells how his own prayer apparently reduced from twenty to five per cent of his waking time the obsessive drumming which left raw and swollen the fingers of David, a boy with severe learning difficulties. David's other difficulties, however, remained. An atheist at Lourdes hurls at God a prayer that He will heal a terribly disabled child beside him. The atheist stands up healed. The child is carried away unchanged. Why does God behave in these strange ways?

Petrie takes us into the thought worlds of thinkers from Augustine and Irenaeus to Walter Wink and Ian Fraser, and looks at the practice healers from elders of the earliest Church, via John Wesley and the Cure D'Arns, to John Wimber. He seems equally at home with modern, mediaeval and patristic writings, and he is frequently illuminating in his interpretations of Biblical incidents. His suggestion that

*leitourgia* should be the work of the people rather than "those stilted words said by priests" could transform our public worship. He is insistent that we should be insistent with God in our prayers for healing (which he sees as a missionary activity). He argues that God is paralysed (as Jesus was by unbelief at Nazareth) by our "blasphemous insertion of the phrase *if it be Thy will*".

This is only a flavour of the rich material in this splendid book, but will, I hope, whet the appetites of all interested in the healing ministry, and more generally in working with God today.

*Murray Chalmers is chaplain at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Edinburgh.*

**A Place of Healing: working with suffering in death and dying**

**Kearney M.**

**ISBN 0-19-263238-8**

**Oxford University Press**

This is a creative look at suffering that seeks to encourage healthcare professionals to look beyond the medical model of care which although is valuable is limited to what it can achieve in the face of individual suffering. Kearney's search for a different model has its roots in the medical model itself, he describes *a narrow winding pathway that leads inwards, downwards and backwards in time to ancient Greece and the very beginnings of western health-care*. Here there are two intertwined systems: the teachings of Hippocrates the physician, and Asklepios the god of healing. The rite of Asklepiian healing is explored in great detail.

Don't be misled into believing this is a book deep in theory and little else, it is very much a practical book with in-depth case studies used to illustrate the various theories and practices. The theories include, the containment of care, a therapeutic use of self, working with nature, and dreamwork. The section on dreamwork is fascinating and we are given clear guidance on the process of dreamwork accompanied by detailed accounts of the process at work. There is also a section devoted to education suggesting healthcare professionals will need more than knowledge and medical skills if they are to understand and work with suffering. Again there are examples of workshops that encourage this wider thinking and approach.

At first reading this book appeared to be extremely in depth, with long and numerous quotes from texts. However, it is printed in a clever way, with the quotes in a different font size, which enables the casual reader to skip the fine detail and get to the authors understanding and interpretation of the texts, and the real meat of the book. For those working with those who suffer this book is well worth its hardback price. The book concludes with the question: *What is the fundamental responsibility of healthcare? Intervening to treat our patient's pain, or working with patients in their suffering? Healthcare has a dual responsibility to patients in their pain and suffering, for like it or not, the experience of illness includes both.* This is a book for all healthcare professions who are open to be challenged in their thinking and practice.

*David Mitchell is chaplain at the Marie Curie Centre, Hunters Hill, Glasgow*

### **Coping with Post-Trauma Stress**

**Parkinson F.**

**ISBN 0 85969 843 2**

**Sheldon Press**

Frank Parkinson is described as a consultant, trainer and university lecturer who has been a clergyman and army chaplain for over 30 years, and who trained as a Relate Counsellor. This experience gives depth to what is a concise and clear presentation to Post-Trauma Stress, (PTS).

This paperback is part of the vast *Overcoming Common Problems Series*. It covers in a very logical manner what PTS is, looking at types of stress and defining a trauma incident. So we are brought to the point of understanding that "PTS is the physical and emotional reaction to being involved in a distressing event where your normal mechanism for coping and adapting are challenged and might break down." Parkinson helpfully asks, "Who is involved?" and identifies four main groups: (1) the immediate victims; (2) partners, family and friends; (3) rescuers, helpers and other professionals; (4) those with a general interest in trauma. He also lays down a challenge, "It would be a better world, we would be a better people and our relationships and lives would be better if we used our knowledge and experience to create a community and society where any reactions to stress and trauma were seen as natural and normal and not signs of weakness or inadequacy."

Parkinson then takes the reader through the various automatic physical reactions of PTS. He illustrates these, as he does elsewhere in the book, with various scenes from the tapestry of life. This is supplemented by a very full list of characteristic physical reactions. He then gives similar treatment to the emotional reactions encountered. While many of us may encounter PTS in the course of our lives, Parkinson then focuses on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, highlighting certain specific reactions, to this more acute and chronic condition. Half way through the book, Parkinson moves from the medical analysis to the relational side of coping with PTS, whether that be with oneself, partner, children or as a professional. He deals with the *how* and the *why* of our reactions so as to offer strategies for coping. This involves an overview of theories and practical exercises.

The question that arises for me is "Who will read this book?" Certainly the professional, or possibly a partner or friend who wishes to be understanding, but whether a person experiencing PTS would read such a paperback will depend largely on what stage that individual is at. However, this book provides for a minister or chaplain an accessible understanding on its subject not just in its presentation, but for discovering where to find help and what further reading is available. If this is reflective of the rest of the series then we have a valuable pastoral tool at our disposal.

*Alister W. Bull is part-time chaplain at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley.*

### **Spiritual Dimensions of Pastoral Care**

**D Willows and John Swinton**

**ISBN 1-85302-892-4**

**Jessica Kingsley, London**

My first reactions were "not another cobbled together collection of essays." I was wrong, very wrong. This is an important collection of works spanning the years 1971 to 1999. All of the articles have been previously published in *Contact: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Pastoral Studies*. The volume represents a historical record of developing thinking about pastoral care and Practical Theology over nearly thirty years. More than that, the volume does allow the exploration of issues and illuminates genuine theological concerns.

The twenty two essays are grouped under six headings: The Emergence of Practical Theology; Practical Theology and the Art of Theological Reflection; Practical Theology in Search of Practical Wisdom; Practical Theology in Critical Dialogue; Practical Theology and Social Action; and Practical Theology as Story. An introduction by editors David Willows and John Swinton explains their selection and the headings of the sections give a good idea of the thrust of the book. A helpful index helps navigation through the vast issues touched on. This work is to be recommended to all that are involved in the field.

One quibble, however, is whether or not the book is relevantly titled? What might be often called spirituality or spiritual needs are rarely explicitly mentioned, except briefly in two essays. These two essays are by M Jacobs ("Pastoral Counselling and Psychotherapy" in which he quotes Clinebell's classification of spiritual needs) and "A vision of Pastoral Theology" by S Pattison and J Woodward (which glances at living with the difficult questions from scripture and tradition). One further essay does consider "Sexuality, Liturgy and Pastoral Theology"

but again does not deal with what might be called the spiritual dimension of these three human minefields. The authors might comment "ah ... but we do look at the spiritual dimension". This however may not be the most common way of using these terms. As a work on Practical Theology it is excellent, as a wrestling with spiritual dimensions the title perhaps misleads.

For me, while I appreciated much in the collection, the one comment that resonated most powerfully for me was written by A Billings "it is not more counselling courses that we want. but a greater knowledge of the Christian faith and greater skill and courage in using it to illuminate contemporary situations. In short, we need pastors again, not counselors".

This is a book to be recommended and to be savoured.

*Ken Coulter is part-time chaplain at Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow*

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## POETRY

### Temples of Truth

I'd like to see a renovated morgue?  
You know, with walls of white, and stainless steel,  
Shiny and clean, with yellow accent flooring.  
A place where I'd be glad to bare my truths.  
Just off the lobby, to the Chapel's right.  
A bit of architectural honesty:  
People will die here. People, too, seek answers,  
In rooms of no unnecessary chatter,  
As if, within the stillness, there arises  
Comfort in meaning, strengthening those who live,  
Until the stillness bears away them, too.

Daniel Grossoehm