

us that it had been successful and explained all that had been done. However he was neither confident nor elated, as I was, and he stressed that there was a very long road ahead with many dangerous hurdles.

10. One small incident I recall which happened before this operation is that we had had a consultation with Dr Joffe to discuss Joe's future and treatment. He made reference to some of the problems lying ahead but he had talked about this in a balanced way and also talked of what we might hope for in due course. Following this meeting, I left Gill in the waiting area and went to collect the car. When I came back to pick her up I could not see her in the waiting area, and found that she had been taken by a nurse to have some privacy in a small ante room. She was upset and I talked things through with her and it became apparent that she found herself focussing on the difficulties ahead and the negative side of things, particularly the fact that the Cardiac Catheter procedure could come up with the result that Joe would be inoperable: on the other hand there had been much in our discussion with Dr Joffe that had been positive, and by the two of us talking it through together, we drew out these positive aspects. It seems to me illustrative of how a person's reaction to advice can depend very much on the listener as to what he or she focusses on, and how they react to that information. One other minor incidental point is as to the lack of facility there was at that time for privacy in such a situation, the room to which my wife was directed was little more than a storage cupboard.
11. When Joe had recovered sufficiently, he came home, but had to be readmitted to hospital within a week or two, because of problems with