

backwards. Primitive man revered age. The octogenarian was the village wise man. In agrarian societies, the aged played important economic and social roles as long as they were physically able to do so. They were not a problem—they were considered an asset.

Often in 20th-century society those who are too old to keep up with the industrial pace are shunted to one side; those who are able to perform useful work are forced to leave their jobs because of arbitrary retirement policies.

Fortunately, many are beginning to recognize the problem and to come to grips with it. Although knowledge about aging and the aged is limited, efforts are made to design programmes and policies for the old-age population concerning employment, income, security, health, social welfare, education and such community services as employment counselling, and information and referral service. These programmes and policies are not meant for the exclusive use of older people; they are also at the disposal of other groups in society. . .

We are beginning to examine the positive contributions the aged can make to society. Economic and technological factors of employment of older workers, their pre-retirement and post-retirement programmes, income, security, social problems related to their mental health, the use of their leisure time, and their integration into community life are being investigated. . .

Alternative Methods of Vector Control, *WHO Chronicle*, 1971, No. 5.

Hitherto the control of insect vectors has depended mainly on chemicals. However, the development of insecticide resistance among many vector species and the destruction of their natural enemies have served to increase rather than reduce the necessity for insecticides, so that a method intended to be temporary has become permanent. Increasing attention has therefore been paid to developing alternative methods of control that will not pollute the environment, that will act only (or mainly) on the target species, and that will avoid the problem of resistance.

The great difficulty with these alternative methods is that they require an adequate supply of staff trained in biological principles and entomological techniques and would thus increase the demands made on the resources of developing countries. On the other hand, they would depend less on equipment and supplies purchased from developed countries and so might prove to be more economical in the long run. . .