

in his article — 'Modernization and Ageing in Near Future. A feature of Asian Countries'. He builds up his logic not on assumptions but on hard facts and statistics gathered from different international agencies. He covers a wide range of countries including China, India (rural), Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand and tries to build up a liaison between modernization and ageing — a process which is irreversible. Neither the process of modernization nor demographic changes nor the role of

bers have to bear the brunt of maintaining the family in all its various ramifications. How do women depend on their husband or on their sons for

*LIFE IN TWILIGHT YEARS*  
*Edt By Indrani Chakravarty*  
*Kwality Book Company, Rs. 250*

economic succour?

'A contemporary study of the Aged widow in an Urban Metropolis' by Indrani Chakravarty et al could have

Sociologist, the 'lonely seventh' of our society. The sorry state of affairs of the widows in Benares, Brindaban, Nabadwip amply bear it out.

Man does not live by bread alone. This applies to old people as well. Besides food they need psycho-somatic stimulations in their lives. Hence, the necessity of physical activities of the elderly after retirement. This idea has been well taken up by Renu Malhotra and N K Chadha in their article, 'Physical Activities of the Elderly After Retirement.' 'Greening' and not 'Graying' has become accept-

# A Glowing SUNSET

the family can be stalled or reversed. The state has to find the best possible way to face squarely with the problems of ageing. Banerjee is to be congratulated for his contribution.

In 'Ageing and the Economic Factor in Later Life' Usha Bambawale has tried to depict the situation of the working women in India and their potential for saving

With date analysis from a sample of 864 women above 60 years of age, the author concludes that women generally are dependents economically either on the husband or on the son. Economic factor is the determining one in their well-being. The conclusion is not far from what is already known. Modernization has brought in globalisation which, in its turn, the SAP (Structural Adjustment Programme) in our country. Since

1991 this liberalisation process is on and, resultantly, 13 percent of the households in India are now female-headed. The male members opting for jobs outside the village, the town, the city, the country, female mem-

been more focused and fruitful if the authors studied widows of different age-groups instead of the 'aged' ones. "That the respondent widows, by and large follow, shastriya do's and don'ts is an important outcome of the study" sounds more of a whisper than a bang.

In fact it is rather taken for grant-

able with old people all over the world. They tend to agree with Ernest Hemingway that retirement is the most loathsome word in the English language. Different countries have responded differently to this 'greening of graying people' One of the most significant pieces of legislation was the Old Americans Act of

1965 (which has since been amended several times). This Act created the Administration on Ageing (AoA) which has become the focal point of federal efforts on behalf of the elderly. The Sun City in Arizona gives the elderly a place in the sun. In this 'timeless oasis', the elderly can join any one of more than 300 clubs for hobby enthusiasts, spend their days on the golf courses, at swimming pools. In modern China, too, this 'greening' process of the elderly is carefully looked into. In China, today, life begins at sixty. Elderly people there are very eager to learn English and carry in their pockets slips containing such writings, "How are you?", "sit down," "I am X," "your name please." They won't hesitate to engage in con-



ed that aged widows in our society can hardly, if at all, slough off the shastras from their lives. Our society is also not yet prepared to allow them to do otherwise. In fact, they constitute ala Peter Townsend, the British