

PERIL, SAYS DOCTOR

Compulsory retirement at the chronological age of 65 regardless of "real" age is pushing many persons into illness and senility prematurely says an editorial in the current issue of the Detroit Medical News, official publication of the Wayne County Medical Society.

The editorial, written by Dr. Chas. W. Sellers, associate editor, says that more and more persons will find themselves in this category "unless some change is made in our work philosophy."

Many Still Ablye

"Too many persons are retired simply because they have reached 65 when as a matter of fact a large percentage of them are mentally and physically quite capable of continuing in some productive capacity," the editorial declares.

"Retirement is rejection."

"Rejection is devastating, both psychologically and sociologically. It decreases one's stature, debases one's ego and takes away the incentive for that morning shower, shave and shoe-shine.

"To be put on the shelf intimates uselessness and few of us would accept such an appraisal willingly," the editorial says.

Change Suggested

The writer suggests that a retirement system might well contain the option of returning to previous work or similar but less strenuous duties.

"If retirement is mandatory on a basis of age alone, it is better to refuse to accept activity than to retire from all activity. Those who do the latter become our patients with problems that are not amenable to ordinary medical treatment," the editorial says.

Physical and mental deterioration begins to take place. Dissolution sets in. "Senescence becomes a reality."

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