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# SYNOPSIS

## STUDIES ON SENESCENCE

By Kakusho Tachibana

The purpose of this paper is to explain and clarify the psychological structure of the process of aging and the aged. Facts and theories concerning them in biological, physiological and sociological fields were collected in order to confirm the structure.

This investigation, therefore, was divided into the following three parts.

- Part I Biological research in the span of life
- Part II Cultural-historical survey of the conception of the aged
- Part III Psychological investigation in the mental structure of the aged

and each part contains such articles as below mentioned:

(General introduction)

### Part I

- Chapter 1 What is aging?
- Chapter 2 Statistical study in heredity of the length of life
- Chapter 3 Demographic and geographic distribution of the aged in Japan

### Part II

- Chapter 1 Role and status of the aged in primitive culture
- Chapter 2 The origin and development of 'Respect for the aged' in Japan
- Chapter 3 Historical survey of the pious ceremony and the welfare service for the aged in Japan

### Part III

- Chapter 1 Self-consciousness in aging period
- Chapter 2 Color preference of the aged

- Chapter 3 Experimental study in maze-learning of the aged
- Chapter 4 Reminiscences of the aged in early childhood
- Chapter 5 Some results of association test on the aged by Kent-Rosanoff table
- Chapter 6 Results of introversion-extroversion test on the aged
- Chapter 7 Experimental studies in mental and physical works of the aged—including Practice effect in motor speed and strength, and Bilateral difference
- Chapter 8 Religious experiences of the aged
- Chapter 9 A study of life conception of the aged through last words
- Chapter 10 'Alterskunst'—Structure of *Sabi*-experience
- (Conclusion) Current trends in gerontology—including general results of above mentioned investigations

In each article the essential problem relevant to aging process and the aged was treated of with various methods—experiment, measurement and survey.

In conclusion we could manifest the mental structure of the aged as 'Unentfaltete Vielheit' (undeveloped manifoldness), corresponding to E. Stern's conception concerning the one of the childhood and adolescence. More concretely speaking, contrary to the biological and social needs for perfection and adjustment in adolescence, indifference to family and social life and retirement from it with physical and mental frustrations give rise to our so-called structure of 'Unentfaltete Vielheit' and ego-centric characteristics in senescence, and we could assume such period chronologically between 65 and 75 years of age.

Recently, after World War II, in every country, especially in America, the problems of aging process and the aged are becoming very serious in medicine, sociology and psychology under the name of 'Gerontology'. We must promote out investigations further and further in every branch of science as important future problem.