

Book Reviews

World Health Organisation (1979). *Breast Feedings*, Geneva, World Health Organization, 44 pp. SW. fr 3.

The World Health Organization has prepared a short brochure designed to assist health workers and others in their day to day encouragement of breast feeding. The brochure covers the "natural course of breastfeeding", the "conditions that help the mother to breastfeed successfully", the "situations that need special attention" and the ways in which the health worker can help.

The brochure is not a comprehensive scientific document but a ready reference for the health worker. The issues are covered in a general way so as to permit the points made to be adapted to local conditions and situations.

Primarily designed for health workers, this brochure will also be useful for all those concerned with maternal and child care.

S. T. CHEN

World Health Organization (1980).
Environmental Management for Vector

Environmental management for vector control was successfully applied during the early part of this century by Watson in Malaysia, Gorgas in the Panama Canal Zone and by Ross and others in India, Africa and elsewhere. However, the spectacular and widespread use of insecticides has completely over-shadowed environmental management, which has since been neglected. Massive pollution of the environment by insecticides and the development of resistance to insecticides by several species of vectors, has brought us back full circle to Environmental Management. The production of this report, as a result of a meeting of the Expert Committee on Vector Biology and Control is therefore timely.

The report begins by defining environmental management, modification, manipulation and management of human habitation or behaviour. Various methods of management are then discussed in great detail. The importance of co-ordinating with agriculture, irrigation and other socio-economic development and its impact on the environment is discussed, citing several examples from developing countries. Methods of cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis is given. The need for planning has been stressed and the Committee has recommended that evaluation should be carried out at various intervals in order to determine the course that the programme should take. The report discusses training and man-power requirements as well as various forms of records and reports as well as the kind of research that will be required to be done. Annex 1 gives the matrix for the study and assessments of results which will be useful for planning studies. While Annex 2 provides a checklist of major steps for the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases. Table I gives generalized biological information concerning the vectors of disease with a note at the foot of the table, indicating that only the major factors affecting transmission are illustrated. As this table is too generalized, it will be of little use in planning. Since the *Mansonia* are important vectors of *Brugia malayi* over a wide area, this genus could also have been included with the *Culex* and *Aedes*.

The committee has evidently put in a great deal of thought and effort into this report - making it extremely comprehensive. Various factors of environmental management are discussed in detail. This report should be very valuable to various government departments and organizations, such as the Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works, Department of the Environment, etc. to all Public Health Workers and to those interested in the control of vector-borne diseases.

SHIVAJI RAMALINGAM