

### "IS THERE A CURE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT?"\*

With the army of unemployed comparable in numbers to that other army which left our shores when the war was at its height, we must not wonder if the skeleton can no longer be kept in its cupboard and that once more people are asking what is to be done. Unemployment appears to be very generally regarded as one of those inevitable aftermaths of the war—those "Fruits of Victory"—which is only to be expected and accepted, while in one way or another it is kept within decent bounds and otherwise regulated so far as possible. It is the commonplace of current comment to declare that the subject is one of extreme complexity and most difficult to understand; that there is no short cut to any solution, so that it must be approached from many sides, and that, after all, we must more or less bear with it, as it must always be in some degree with us.

By suggestion, implication or direct statement, we are given to understand that to think there is a prime cause for this phenomenon and that therefore it is possible to find a cure which will not only palliate but permanently prevent is to write oneself down as a hopeless crank or dangerous quack.

To combat all this sloppy talk, and to show that there is a prime cause and that there is a radical cure is the object Mr. Verinder has set before himself in his latest production, "Is There a Cure for Unemployment?" Possibly, to many minds, this will put him hopelessly out of court. But he accepts the risk, and those who know Mr. Verinder and what for many years has steadily flowed from his able pen will experience no surprise when they find him supporting his case with a wealth of reasoned argument and an array of fact which any unprejudiced mind will find hard to resist, and in which even the most hostile critic will have difficulty in discovering a flaw or weak link.

We shall not attempt to go over Mr. Verinder's ground, but why there should be any doubt as to the fundamental cause of trade depressions and worklessness, or scepticism as to the possibility of removing it, we find it hard to understand.

For why should trade fluctuations and their results be accepted as inevitable? Man's wants are either constant or ever growing. They do not fluctuate. The same is true of his mental and physical powers, by applying which he seeks to satisfy his wants. That is one side of the medal.

The other side is that Providence furnishes the human race with a storehouse whose riches do not fluctuate and which is abundantly capable of satisfying man's every want in response to his efforts. Why, then, if none of the factors fluctuate—neither the wants, nor the capacity to labour, nor the raw materials of the earth—should we experience recurring periods of worklessness and prosperity? The thing cannot be part of the natural order. The periodic fluctuations must be due to some impediment which man himself places between himself and the raw materials of nature and periodically withdraws. To discover what this impediment is and how it can best be removed once and for all is not the mark of the quack any more than it would be in the case of the physician who, when treating a patient suffering from a complication of troubles due to the presence of some foreign body in his system, should recommend the extraction of the foreign body instead of various treatment for each complication.

But Mr. Verinder's pamphlet speaks for itself and should be read by everyone who appreciates radical thinking on a matter of vast importance to the State. To those who do so it will be made clear how an apparently insoluble and greatly complicated problem can be reduced to a few simple elements and the way out clearly indicated. This is the unvarying method of true science. It is the method which Mr. Verinder has faithfully and successfully followed from start to finish.

W. R. L.

\* "Is There a Cure for Unemployment?" By Frederick Verinder. Published by the English League for the Taxation of Land Values, 376-7, Strand, London, W.C. 2. Price Three pence.