

MODERN MECHANIZATION AND ITS

surpassed, nor even frequently equalled, since he has acquired his new heritage of power; and a structure of society as capable of giving the individual everything he can get from the company of his fellows as any which we have since devised. All this is true. But the nature of the society then possible, if not inferior, was profoundly different; the range and scope of human achievement, if not surpassed in quality, much more restricted in range; the possible total of material wealth incomparably less and the numbers of those who could enjoy more than a bare existence inexorably limited.

This was the inescapable lot of man but a century and a half ago; and it must have seemed that it would be his lot for ever. It is so no longer. The stored energy of nature first released for man in steam has given him all the power he requires for all his needs. Oil has been added to coal, and electricity transmits their energy and that of moving water too. And with power at his call his skill and science have devised machines to replace his personal toil and multiply beyond imagining the commodities that minister to his sustenance and his comfort. To these have been added the means of instantaneous communication, which enable man's messages and instructions, and even the very accents