

MODERN MECHANIZATION AND ITS

conclusion at the more remote effects of mechanization upon man's social structure, on the conditions of work upon which his happiness depends, on his individual quality and on his social ethics.

VII

In these spheres too I believe that modern mechanization will have profoundly different effects from the earlier mechanization of the last century. Let me suggest a few of these probable differences.

First, consider the size of the communities in which man lives. Hitherto the effect of mechanization has been to create increasing urban agglomerations, based often upon proximity to coal supplies. And the process still continues. Social motives are added to economic motives. The man, and perhaps even more the woman, who has once enjoyed the amusement of town life finds the country dull, in spite of the radio. Nowadays, however, it is less important to be near a coal-field, for oil or electricity may replace coal as motive power; and the magnet of a big town is its market. That is largely why industries in England are coming south to London.

But modern mechanization is, I believe, destined to reverse this centripetal tendency. It will not indeed send people back to the