

#### MODERN MECHANIZATION AND ITS

the post-war decade, and there is much to indicate that it has continued at a rapid pace even during the period of the depression'.

We have a good deal of information to enable us to confirm and give substance to this general statement. But the available statistics illustrate rather than measure its truth; and they need a perspective given by much information which is not capable of statistical expression.

We have probably all of us seen the startling figures published in connexion with the 'Energy Survey' of the technocrats in America. Such figures may be accurate but at the same time very misleading if we allow ourselves to generalize from them. They are taken from exceptionally mechanized factories in forms of production exceptionally suitable for extreme mechanization. They allow certain reasonable inferences as to the probable course of development in one category of human activities, the production of standardizable articles, but we shall have a very distorted vision if we consider them as applicable to the whole of man's work and life.

In order to keep a due sense of proportion we need some general picture of occupations and conditions of work in the world.

Let me start with agriculture. This may