

#### EFFECT ON THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY

years ending in 1927 was no less than 43 per cent. These figures may not be strictly comparable but they indicate both the rapidity of technical progress of recent years and the considerable variation in different countries.

In most cases this progress involves displacement of labour. But it would of course be a complete mistake to think of this as necessarily involving corresponding unemployment. We need constantly to have in mind the experience of the last century. Mechanization has been the foundation on which for a century and a half the comforts and the luxuries of life have been increased, and a constantly growing population has been enjoying higher standards of life. The Industrial Revolution involved great transitional hardship in England a century ago, followed by great benefits for later generations, and no substantial body of continuing unemployment. In the United States fifty years later an even more rapid mechanization brought greater benefits and less hardship, and, until the Great War, America was absorbing her actual increase of population and in addition an immigration of nearly a million a year, and finding work and constantly rising wages for all. The experience of a century is not to be lightly disregarded because of a post-war decade, still less of a