

INTRODUCTION

THIS book gives an account of a detailed investigation of unemployment in York, together with suggestions for remedying the evils which it disclosed. Perhaps its chief value lies in the fact that it covered the whole city, and so far as we are aware, no detailed inquiry over a similar area has previously been made. There have, of course, been a great number of inquiries into the unemployment of particular sections of the people, as, for instance, those applying to distress committees, or registering at the Labour Exchange, or the members of trade unions, etc. But the partial character of such investigations has always laid them open to the criticism that they have given no complete picture of the problem, since the unemployed persons considered were not typical of the whole class. It was to remedy this defect in a small measure that the present inquiry was undertaken, and so far as the city of York is concerned, we are now able to state not only how many people were unemployed on the day of the inquiry, but in nearly