

one "correct" classification of causes. But bearing in mind that we are not confining ourselves to the present depression alone, it is helpful to discuss separately four groups of causes, viz.: (1) seasonal fluctuations, (2) cyclical or "trade cycle" fluctuations, (3) "technological" changes, and - although they are connected with cyclical and technological factors, - (4) causes specially relevant to the post-war situation and to the present depression. I have already referred to specific personal causes, which are not so much causes as determinants of the incidence of unemployment; and to defects in the organisation of the labour market or particular labour markets, which may be contributing factors of considerable weight.

Seasonal Fluctuations

(1) The prevalence and effects of seasonal fluctuations need little stress in this country, and the interruptions or irregularities in work which they produce make them the chief "normal" cause of unemployment - or under-employment, if the term is preferred in this connection. So far as they are due to the concentration of harvests in particular months, the problem is to a great degree that of the mobilisation or migration of labour. This part of the problem has been met in the past by cooperation between the Employment Service and the railways, while its magnitude has been reduced with the increased use of agricultural machinery; but there is far less evidence as to the successful reabsorption of labour not required after harvests are in. So far as seasonal fluctuations are due to natural obstacles - the reduction in temperature and light, the coming of snow and the freezing-up of rivers - remedial policies, though they may be directed towards these obstacles, have largely to accept them, and to aim at

provision for employment or maintenance in slack months. *There is a third type,*

*however, which is to be distinguished if we are considering remedial policy. Industry* But industry has plenty of examples of seasonal irregularity due rather to the

habits or custom of producers or consumers - such as the printing and