

and adequacy of the published information. The index most generally quoted is based on the number of members of certain trade unions, whose aggregate membership is nearly a million, who are reported as unemployed at the end of each month; this number expressed as a percentage of the membership is published monthly in the *Labour Gazette* of the Board of Trade, and it is shown for 1913 and 1914 in column 1 of the table on p. 7. The trade unions concerned are in the main composed of skilled workmen; engineering accounts for a quarter of all, women are hardly represented, of building operatives only carpenters are included in any large numbers, and the loss of work by textile operatives and coal miners is not fully accounted for. This index, valuable as it is, is by no means necessarily representative of the movement of the whole volume of employment.

Since the Insurance Act came into force, very complete statistics are available as to the number of men unemployed in those industries where insurance against unemployment is compulsory—that is, building, works of construction, engineering, shipbuilding, and subordinate trades. The number out of work, expressed as a percentage of all so insured, gives very accurate information over an important, though limited, area of industry, containing about 2,500,000 men. These percentages, given in column 2, show fluctuations similar to those in column 1, though the movement is not so violent. In neither case are men out of work owing to labour disputes, or men who have joined the Army or Navy, counted as unemployed.

Information of a different and much less definite character is obtained from other records of the Labour Exchanges. The most significant statement is that which