

slightly affected by unemployment since the war." Nevertheless, the payment of benefits has entailed the expenditure of large sums of money. The outgo for this purpose in the period 1912 to 1920 was only a little over £6,000,000, and during that period contributions had so far exceeded benefits that a surplus of over £22,000,000 had been accumulated. However, in 1920 the act was extended so as to cover about eight million additional workers. In the latter part of that year began the post-war depression which has continued, with some fluctuations, ever since. The result was a tremendous increase in benefit payments, which amounted altogether in the period 1920 to 1930, to nearly £476,000,000. The surplus was wiped out in short order and by the end of 1930 the insurance administration had borrowed from the treasury £56,600,000.

A very large part of this debt, probably most of it, was incurred in paying benefits to workers who after exhausting their legal rights to benefits were still unemployed. In continuing to pay benefits under these circumstances, Great Britain turned away from the insurance principle. Since 1921 there have been two types of benefit—"standard" benefits which are justified on an insurance basis, and "extended" or "transitional" benefits which correspond more nearly to what is ordinarily called poor relief. How this came about, what it means, and what it has done to the whole insurance structure is the subject matter of a good proportion of the book. In 1930 the cost of extended benefits was made a charge on the treasury and the insurance administration was relieved of that burden.

Among other things Miss Gilson discusses the effect of unemployment insurance on mobility of labor and finds that it both hampers and contributes to it. She deals with the oft repeated charge of demoralization and quotes Royal Commissions of Conservative as well as of Labor complexion as denying that there is any appreciable amount of fraud or malingering. Miss Gilson asserts that it is unemployment, not the payment of benefits, that demoralizes, and quotes a British economist as saying that "no one—except a few lunatics"—imagines that a man would rather remain idle and receive benefits than work for wages.

Miss Gilson points out the defects in the British plan and deals with them with the same frankness and vigor that characterizes the book as a whole.

In her concluding chapter are included some "considerations which may well be taken into account in the present discussion of unemployment insurance in the United States." In the opinion of this reviewer this is a sentence which could be offered with justification as the title of the book.

JOHN A. FITCH\*

*Unemployment Problems in 1931*, (International Labour Office Studies and Reports, Series C, No. 16), World Peace Foundation, Boston, 1931, pages 280, \$2.50.

This volume includes that part of the Report of the Director which refers to unemployment and also a series of memoranda submitted in January, 1931, to the governing

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body of the International Labour Office. Professors Anseaux, Cole, Hahn, Hersch and other experts have collaborated with the League officials in making this a comprehensive study of the world situation. It covers the subjects of monetary fluctuations, inequalities in the distribution of capital, disturbances in international trade, population, rationalization, wages, and their effects on unemployment. It is interesting and weighty material amply supported by statistical presentations.

*The Functioning of the Gold Standard*. By Dr. Feliks Mlynarski, World Peace Foundation (40 Mt. Vernon St.), Boston, 1931, pages 115. (\$3.80)

This is a memorandum submitted to the Gold Delegation of the Financial Committee of the League of Nations. It is the sixth and latest of a series of documents prepared for the League on gold. The series deals with the present and future supply and the distribution of gold, the monetary systems of seventy countries and the legal provision relating to gold. The present functioning of the gold standard and its future are dealt with in this pamphlet.

#### Books Received

\**A Basis for Stability*. By Samuel Crowther, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1932, pages ix, 360. (\$3.00).

*Die Schaubildliche Erfassung und Untersuchung der Betriebsorganisation*. (A Graphical Analysis of and Inquiry into Management Problems). By Fritz Nordiseck, C. E. Poeschel Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany, 1932, pages xii, 158.

\**Economic Stabilization in an Unbalanced World*. By Alvin Harvey Hansen, Ph.D., Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York, 1932, pages ix, 384. (\$3.00).

\**International Unemployment*. A Study of Fluctuations in Employment and Unemployment in Several Countries, 1910-1930, contributed to the World Social Economic Congress, Amsterdam, August, 1931. Edited by M. L. Fledderus, International Industrial Relations Institute, The Hague, Holland, 1932, pages 496. Obtainable from Room 600, 130 E. 22nd St., New York. (\$2.50).

\**Investing in Wages*. A Plan for Eliminating the Lean Years. By Albert L. Deane and Henry Kittredge Norton, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1932, pages viii, 155. (\$1.75).

\**Is Capitalism Doomed?* By Lawrence Dennis, Harper & Brothers, New York and London, 1932, pages xi, 328. (\$3.00).

\**Jobs, Machines and Capitalism*. By Arthur Dahlberg, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1932, pages xviii, 352. (\$3.00).

*Philosophy and Civilization*. By John Dewey, Minton, Balch & Company, New York, 1931, pages vii, 334. (\$5.00).

\**Pricing for Profit*. By W. L. Churchill, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1932, pages xlv, 271. (\$3.00).

\*To be reviewed later.

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# TAYLOR SOCIETY

AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY TO PROMOTE THE SCIENCE  
AND THE ART OF ADMINISTRATION AND OF MANAGEMENT

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Cost Accounting for Public Utilities

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on the pressing economic problems of the day



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