

Editorial & Publishing Offices :

MACMILLAN & Co., LTD.
ST. MARTIN'S STREET
LONDON, W.C.2



Telegraphic Address :
PHUSIS, LESQUARE, LONDON

Telephone Number :
WHITEHALL 8831

Vol. 141

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1938

No. 3564

Overcrowded Professions

AN 'unemployment' problem which has for years baffled university and State authorities in many countries and has, in some, assumed an aspect of tragic intensity for the individuals immediately concerned and of menace for the community, is dealt with by Prof. W. M. Kotschnig in a valuable survey of the subject recently published*. It is scarcely too much to say that the magnitude of the problem is not yet fully appreciated. Here, in Great Britain, where unemployment of university graduates has been on a relatively small scale, although it has given rise to some anxiety in the case of the teaching profession, it has not been 'in the news', but it has been the subject of intermittent investigation and discussion since 1930, and a series of precautionary and preventive measures were suggested at last year's congress of the National Union of Students. The consideration of any such suggestions will be greatly facilitated by reference to Prof. Kotschnig's lucid account of the conditions of the problem and of solutions attempted in various countries, and his comments, criticisms, and suggestions which are evidently the fruit of close observation and long study. In his "Planless Education", published in 1935, he gave a preliminary report of the results of the world-wide survey of the situation undertaken in 1932 by International Student Service, Geneva, of which he was formerly general secretary. For the present volume, that report has been revised, brought up to date, amplified, and developed.

The main theme—unemployment of university graduates—is introduced by an account of the

actual situation in each of twenty-two countries and this is followed by an estimate of causes and effects. The situation is blackest in Austria and Hungary, where the overcrowding of the professions is described as complete and absolute. "In Germany, the 40,000 or 50,000 workless university graduates in 1931-33 became, together with unemployed subalterns of the old Imperial army, the spearhead of the National-Socialist movement." There is, as yet, no other country in the world with such tens of thousands of unemployed graduates, "but there are many countries which are not far from the danger point".

The social problems created by the surplus of university graduates have created "counter-measures", to which Prof. Kotschnig devotes particular attention. A discussion of numerical restriction, the *numerus clausus*, leads on to a consideration of the German law of April 1933, which had the effect of reducing admissions by a half. This drastic limitation of numbers was accompanied by a change in the quality of entrants, due to the introduction of new criteria of selection: race, sex, character, and national reliability (*nationale zuverlassigkeit*), sincerity of outlook (*lauterheit der gesinnung*), bodily prowess, and capacity for comradeship and devotion. This accords with the new conception of the university, introduced with the Nazi regime, as existing for the advancement, not of knowledge in general or of the education of the individual, but of the National-Socialist State. Simultaneously, there was a ruthless elimination from the professions of Jews and others obnoxious on account of their political opinions or affinities. By this rough surgery the urge for higher education (or its diplomas) was checked, and overcrowding relieved.

* "Unemployment in the Learned Professions: an International Study of Occupational and Educational Planning." By Prof. Walter M. Kotschnig. Pp. xii+348. (London: Oxford University Press, 1937.) 12s. 6d. net.

Upon the subject of occupational and educational planning Prof. Kotschnig insists, with perhaps exaggerated emphasis, on the irresistible, "almost elemental" strength of the modern urge for education (most of which might, perhaps, be more justly called "urge for diplomas"), as evidenced by statistical tables. The forces manifesting themselves in this urge—craving for a fuller life, desire for the better pay and social standing to which academic qualifications lead, and faith in the power of knowledge—these forces, far from being played out, are, in many countries, gaining momentum as progress is made towards educational emancipation of the "under-privileged". In Germany this historical trend has been arrested. Under the National-Socialist regime, educational planning has there involved drastic restriction of educational opportunities, and a solution of the problem of overcrowded professions has been reached as part and parcel of a reactionary movement which scorns academic freedom, has little use for the ideal of equal educational opportunity, and has resuscitated the warrior ideal—"a nation of soldiers" (Dr. Goebbels). Elsewhere, such a solution will not, in Prof. Kotschnig's opinion, prove acceptable, and it is suggested that a more excellent way—or, rather, ways, for diversity of conditions in different countries forbid the application of a general prescription.

It is especially in the field of secondary education that replanning is indicated. Except in Italy, where, as a result of Gentile's reorganization of 1923, half of the secondary education is now vocational, there has been a wholly inadequate adjustment in this field to changing social needs. It is pointed out that, in communities where the process of mechanization of industry has been most highly developed, the great majority of young people leaving secondary schools must enter occupations which do not call for any prolonged vocational training, but rather for a well-trained mind and adaptability. Hence the ruling aim of the ordinary secondary school in such communities should be "an education broad enough to fit them not only for work, but for an intelligent and creative use of their leisure time, a training enabling them to be active members of an enlightened citizenry". There should be, in addition, schools of two special types for those pupils whose special aptitudes mark them out for a career (1) in the professions, or (2) as highly skilled craftsmen or technicians. It is suggested that such a clarification of aims and differentiation of types of secondary schools should lead to an improvement in quality of their product so great that the social prestige and equipment for life of the secondary school graduate would approximate to those of the ordinary university graduate.

Palæolithic Age in Palestine

The Stone Age of Mount Carmel:
Excavations at the Wady el-Mughara. By D. A. E. Garrod and D. M. A. Bate. (Report of the Joint Expedition of the British School of Archæology in Jerusalem and the American School of Prehistoric Research, 1929-1934.) Vol. 1. Pp. xii + 240 + 55 plates. (Oxford: Clarendon Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1937.) 42s. net.

THE foreword by G. Grant MacCurdy to the work under notice recalls that, after the discovery of a fragment of Neanderthaloid skull in Galilee (1925), and the International Archæological Congress at Jerusalem (1926), he had the pleasure in 1928 of following the excavations of Miss Garrod at Shukbah, Wady en-Natuf, 27 kilometres north-west of Jerusalem. He mentions Miss Garrod's fine excavations at Gibraltar a short time before, in which she had found a skull of Neanderthal type. Then came

her successful expedition to Iraq (1928) and, finally, in 1929, her excavations, for the joint expedition mentioned in the title above, at Wady el-Mughara in the coastal zone near Haifa, where she was ably assisted by T. D. McCown.

No fewer than eighteen societies and institutions, six of which were British, contributed to the considerable expenses of the expedition, and the great quantity of archæological material obtained was distributed amongst forty museums or institutes. In 1932, for reasons of health, Miss Garrod had to hand over the direction of the excavations to Mr. T. D. McCown, who later gave all his time to the preparation of various Neanderthaloid skeletons found just then by him.

The palæontological classification was undertaken by Miss D. Bate, and the study of the anthropological remains still goes on at the Royal College of Surgeons and will be described in future volumes.