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Unemployment :
Its Causes and . .
Consequences . . .

BY

THE COUNTESS OF WARWICK.

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INTRODUCTORY.



HIS little pamphlet first appeared in the shape of two articles in the "Daily Mail" for February 12th and 13th, 1906. I was greatly impressed by the clear perception they displayed of the fundamental causes of what is called the Unemployed "Problem," and suggested that they might be reproduced in a more permanent setting, and in a form in which they would prove a more effective means of propaganda. So much sentimental gush is written about the unemployed and the poor generally, at any time when they are greatly in evidence, and so much ridiculous nonsense is poured forth as to the causes of unemployment and poverty, that it is of the utmost importance to make it quite clear that these evils are fundamentally inherent in the capitalist system.

This, Lady Warwick has done excellently well in the following pages. I do not remember reading anything in which the usual fallacies as to the causes of unemployment and poverty, as well as the methods most favoured for dealing with them, have been more clearly and plainly exposed.

This question of the unemployed is really the most serious with which modern society is called upon to deal. It is, indeed, the whole social problem. Unemployment is no longer an occasional incident, it is a permanent institution; it does not arise from some special circumstance, some improved method of production, some change of fashion, or some trade depres-

sion ; it has become chronic, as the permanent, inevitable consequence of the natural operation of the capitalist system. The sporadic charity and temporary palliatives which have served in the past to mitigate the evils of epidemic unemployment, will no longer serve.

The evil can only be effectually dealt with by the State provision of permanent employment ; but this undermines the very foundations of the existing order, and prepares the way for the social, communal, industrial organisation of the future.

H. QUELCH.

