

There is some evidence of the mobility of women workers. There is a good demand for women of a particular type, which according to the manager of the labour bureau of a large manufacturing establishment, cannot be met by the local exchanges. He claims to have exhausted the available local market, and now finds his chief recruiting ground in the Black Country. The great Witton firm, on the other hand, are able to fill their vacancies from the immediate neighbourhood, but scores from the Black Country answered their advertisement which asked for several hundreds of women at the beginning of the year.

One result of the extended benefit is, no doubt, the comparative absence of men willing to perform odd jobs. Several striking examples were detailed by a social worker, who did not hesitate to assert that as a result of the "dole" men often refused to render paid service to patients in the hospital near by. Moreover, a notable decrease in the number of men holding Pedlars' Licences has taken place.

While it is not possible to quote cases where men have deliberately given up their employment, preferring Out Relief to work, a prominent Trade Union leader is of the opinion that numbers of men have developed a "knack" of securing a fairly comfortable living by the aid, not only of the Guardians, but also of one or two local charities. But this is abuse of Poor Relief, not of the Unemployment Insurance Benefit.

### BOLTON.

There is a peculiar feature in the Bolton labour market which profoundly affects the whole industrial life of the town. This is the keen demand for child labour and the inadequacy of the supply, even augmented as it is by child workers from places so distant as the outskirts of Manchester. The result of the shortage is keen competition between firms and industries to offer an attractive career to recruits, particularly in regard to rapidity of promotion. This is relevant to the present enquiry in two respects. In the first place, the incentive to remain at work in the hope of promotion is abnormally strong, and secondly, the problem of the re-employment of some sections of the unemployed presents exceptional difficulties to the Rota Committees. Other characteristics of normal employment which must be remarked at the outset, are the conservatism and immobility of the cotton operative. An adult worker usually spends the whole of his industrial life minding "his" mules or "her" looms, and it is very common indeed for him to use the mill as a bank, lending small sums to it at interest, and frequently purchasing shares. On the other hand, the official statistics of population provide *prima facie* evidence of some degree of mobility. The population fell during the war, rose to 184,533 in 1920 and has declined since, the last available figures being 182,200 in 1923. The Report of the