

Whilst no suggestion can be made for improving the working of the Rota Committees, certain problems which they have to face suggest modifications in the provisions of the scheme.

The first of these concerns young men aged from eighteen to early twenties. There seems to be a marked tendency (e.g. in Shoreham, Glasgow and Cardiff) for employers to use juvenile labour (under 17) at low wages. Then, when the young person reaches the age at which the normal wage is 20s. a week or upwards, he is dismissed off and another school-leaver is engaged. This problem appears to present peculiar difficulties in Glasgow. But employers in many cases would like to retain the young worker at a wage little, if not well, above the unemployment benefit, and complaints are frequent that young people try to get dismissed to "go on the dole." On the other hand, firms offering either good wages or the prospect of a better future have no difficulty in obtaining all the young workers they require. This comes out clearly in the Bolton, Newcastle and Glasgow Reports.

It is suggested that the rate of benefit for young people should jump from 7s. 6d. to 18s. (for males) at the age of 18 as at present, but should advance by stages, the full rate of 18s. being reached at the latter age. This would solve the difficulty of young people preferring benefit to wages.

Married women in receipt of benefit present another difficulty. Many of them gave up work when they married, but they had paid contributions during employment, and they have a perfect right to benefit if they want work and cannot get it. Committees, however, often feel that they do not really want work, and that apart from benefits they would never visit the Employment Exchange. Such cases seem to call for fresh statutory provisions and fuller powers of investigation into all relevant circumstances.

The cases of elderly and crippled persons in receipt of benefit are far from easy to handle. In times of trade activity, many of them would obtain some employment, but in times of depression their opportunities are practically nil. To compel them to seek Poor Law relief seems heartless, yet they are not appropriate cases for extended unemployment insurance benefit.

The Ministry of Labour Report on a sample enquiry made in November, 1924, into 10,903 claims to benefit shows the gravity of some of these problems. Of the boys' cases analysed, 16.8 per cent. were classified as "Persons who left school during or since the war, and in consequence of abnormal conditions have been unable to get employment in regular industry."

The Report also shows that 21.3 per cent. of the male cases reviewed were 55 years of age and over, as compared with 15.9 per

