departments to 320,640£; that of the communes to 533,480£, making a total of 1,959,840£. The progressive application of the law will greatly increase these figures for 1908. Comparing these figures with the experience of Belgium, M. Martin states that the Belgian law of 10th May, 1900, gave to workmen and past workmen in needy circumstances, aged 65 years, an annual allowance from the State of 2l. 12s. The expense is more than 520,000£; for a population equal to that of France, it would exceed 3,000,000£. In France, the allowance is deferred to the age of 70, but varies from 2l. 4s. to 9l. 12s., and at Paris is 14l. 8s., while a certain number of old people are maintained in hospital at a cost of 16l. a year.

M. Campagnole prefixes to his commentary an historical review of the position of the question before the enactment of the law of 1905. Under a law of 29th March, 1897, discretionary power was given to communes and departments to award pensions, and provision was made for a State contribution towards these pensions. In 1901, 52 departments had availed themselves of this law and granted 16,692 pensions, receiving a State contribution of 5,406l. By 1906, the departments had increased to 69, the pensions to 26,618, and the State contribution to 16,408l. The majority of pensions granted under this law ranged from 4l. to 5l.

The body of the work consists of a commentary, section by section, upon the provisions of the law, which are discussed in full and ample detail.

In an appendix is given the text of the laws of 1897, 1902, 1905, and 1907, and of the various decrees, arrêts, circulars, regulations and models that have been issued by the authorities for carrying those laws into effect. As these documents altogether number as many as 23, there can be little doubt of the necessity and the usefulness of a guide to enable those concerned to thread their way safely through all these intricacies, and M. Campagnole's work has every appearance of being just such a guide as is wanted. E.B.


The subject of insurance against unemployment is calling for so much attention in the various States of Europe, and is pressing so urgently for a solution in our own country, that M. Dupont's little book is a welcome contribution to the consideration of it. He would have added to its value if he had been a little more careful in correcting the proofs. There is a curious example of this in his very first line. "Je suis homme et par conséquent rien d'humain ne m'est étranger, disait le poète latin," whom he quotes as having written "homo sum et nihil a me alienum puto," a much more general statement than either Terence or the gagging actor who is said to have interpolated the famous line is responsible for. Another occurs in the statistical chapter, where the census of workmen and others employed in 1896 is quoted as:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In industry</td>
<td>5,844,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; commerce</td>
<td>758,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,602,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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More pardonable misprints occur in the chapter on English measures for the relief of unemployment, where Lingfield and Osea island appear as "Singfield et l'ile d'Osea," and Mr. Herring as "M. Herving." On the other hand, we gladly acknowledge that M. Dupont has taken pains to make himself acquainted with what has been done in England, of which he furnishes a careful and accurate account.

His statistical tables show (1) the monthly variations in the amount of unemployment; (2) the variations in unemployment due to occupation; (3) the experience of certain unemployment funds in different trades; (4) the working of the system of subventions to unemployment funds in France. He passes under review all that has been done not only in France but also in other countries to provide against the evils of unemployment by means of assurance; and arrives at the conclusion that a system of voluntary assurance, subsidised by the State and by the municipalities, is that which ought to be adopted. That assurance can only be efficacious if it is made by an association, group, or syndicate. While persons of different occupations can unite to form societies for sickness, invalidity or old age assurance, it is not so with regard to unemployment, since the liability varies with the different occupations. It is only by grouping the assured according to occupation that a fund for unemployment can be successfully worked, inasmuch as the requisite control can only be effected by those of the same occupation. By the side of the societies so formed, labour bureaux should be established, which would assist in finding employment, as speedily as may be, for the claimants on the fund. The employers also should do their share in the maintenance of the funds raised by the workmen. Let them, he says, consider their workmen as fellow-labourers and associates, cease to look upon workmen's organisations as the enemy, realise as far as they can the union of capital and labour in the social institutions that are to be created, and they will doubtless learn to know their workmen better, and thus destroy many prejudices and avert much ill-will.

In an appendix, the statistical information contained in the body of the work is brought down to a later date by a statement of the effect of official returns which appeared while the book was in the press; and a Government circular is quoted, in which the procurators-general are authorised to accept the certificate granted by an association of workmen to a member travelling in search of employment as evidence of the possession of certain means of existence, and therefore as a conclusive answer to any charge of vagrancy.

10.—Unemployment: a problem of industry. By W. H. Beveridge. xvi + 317 pp., 8vo. London: Longmans, Green, 1909. 7s. 6d. net.

This is another of those thorough pieces of research which modern industrial problems are stimulating. With complete statistical evidence, so far as any such has been accumulated (and here it must be confessed that we have not enough statistical evidence yet to enable us to accurately estimate the magnitude of