

SECOND SECTION.

REMEDIES.

INTRODUCTION.

The therapeutics of every disease depend on the diagnostics. As a rule, when safe diagnostics are made, the method of treatment is decided thereby automatically. The same applies to our case: having analyzed the symptoms and ascertained the causes of the origin of the crisis, we can easily decide on the right cure.

Our diagnosis makes a distinction between the fundamental, primary causes of the crisis, and the secondary causes, consisting in those psychological moments which are the leading motives of human action and which have aggravated the already existing crisis in such a way that it acquired the present unexpected dimensions. These latter causes include a general lack of confidence, fear of future developments, anxiety lest someone else should not forestall us in saving his property from a loss, greed of profit from speculation, inclination to imitate the behaviour of others, and all similar motives, based on covetousness or anxiety. These psychological reasons are responsible for at least three fourths of the present extensive dimensions of the crisis.

A correct treatment must therefore consist foremost in the application of measures, that would *suppress the psychological symptoms* (lack of confidence, anxiety, speculation), resembling a magnifying glass through which the fundamental defects appear to us much graver and larger than they really are. These measures

are of a palliative and temporary nature, for they are calculated to reduce the dimensions of and to alleviate the crisis, without removing the root of the evil. But they must be adopted without delay, for the psychological aspect is far more dangerous to the progress of the crisis than the fundamental causes themselves.

But we must not be satisfied with any half-way measures and consider the crisis over, when the present lack of confidence and anxiety subside and disappear, and when fairly normal conditions are re-established. If we stop the hemorrhage from the lungs, we have prevented a further loss of blood, but we have not cured the lungs. The fundamental evil persists, and it is necessary to cure it.

We shall therefore first of all try to find remedies for the psychosis of diffidence and anxiety, partly because these provisional measures are most urgent of all, partly because they are much simpler and much easier to carry out than other measures. In the second place we shall examine the question of suitable *measures for a definite cure* of the crisis. The treatment will thus first of all consist in the suppression of certain symptoms, and only then in the cure of the main causes. Before examining the latter remedies, we shall have to speak of the proposal of an International Economic Conference, on which depends the success of our cure.