

[6]

Of the Causes of Improvement in the productive Powers of Labour, and of the Order according to which its Produce is naturally distributed among the different Ranks of the People

The greatest "improvement" in the productive powers of labour, and the order of its distribution, is the result of the industry and judgment with which it is effected.

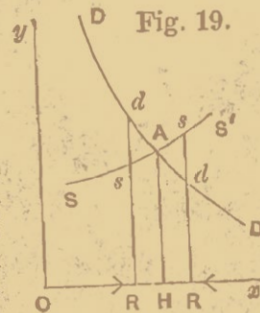


# JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY OF ECONOMIC THOUGHT

PUBLISHED FOR THE HISTORY OF ECONOMICS SOCIETY

the person holding the string swings his hand in a very rhythmical and partly arbitrary, the illustration will show the difficulties of some very real and practical problems. For indeed the demand and supply schedules do not

V. I. 1. To represent the equilibrium of demand and supply geometrically, draw the demand and supply curves together as in Fig. 19. If then the rate at which production is being actually carried on, and  $Rd$  the price greater than  $R_s$  the supply price, the production will be profitable, and will be increased.  $R$ , the amount-price, will move to the right. On the other hand, if  $R$  is less than  $R_s$ ,  $R$  will move to the left. If  $Rd$  is equal to  $R_s$ , that is, if  $R$  is vertically under a point of intersection of the demand and supply curves, demand and supply are in equilibrium. We may take as the typical diagram for stable equilibrium a commodity that obeys the law of diminishing returns. If we had made  $SS'$  a horizontal straight line, we should have presented the case of "constant return," in which the equilibrium is the same for all amounts of the commodity. If  $SS'$  is inclined negatively, but less steeply than the demand curve, the necessity for this condition will appear more fully later on), we should have a stable equilibrium for a commodity which obeys the law of increasing returns. In either case the above reasoning remains unchanged without the alteration of a letter; but the last case introduces difficulties which we have arranged



may happen that they have not met with

Of course, and Norfluences, of which persist, them to and No broader § 7. with in



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*Journal of the History of Economic Thought (JHET)* is the journal of the History of Economics Society. *JHET* is a quarterly, refereed journal and welcomes papers that reflect the full spectrum of scholarly analysis within the history of economic thought. The *Journal* also features a regular Book Review section, which includes reviews by leading specialists.

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