

[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 effects of
the greater variety and judgment with which it
is applied.

JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY OF ECONOMIC THOUGHT

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he person holding the string swings his hand
y rhythmical and partly arbitrary, the illustration will
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 R_d the price greater than R_s the supply price, the production is not profitable, and will be increased. R , the amount may call it, will move to the right. On the other hand, if R_d is less than R_s , R will move to the left. If R_d is such that is, if R is vertically under a point of intersection of the two curves, demand and supply are in equilibrium. We have taken 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 case the same for all amounts of the commodity. If SS' inclined negatively, but less steeply than DD' (the possibility for this condition will appear more fully later on), we should have stable equilibrium for a commodity which obeys the law of increasing returns; in the latter case the above reasoning remains unchanged without the alteration of letter, but the last case introduces difficulties which we have arranged

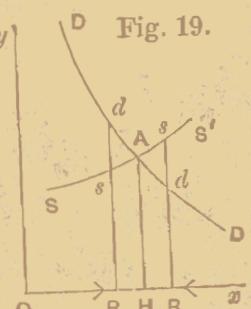


Fig. 19.

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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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