

[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



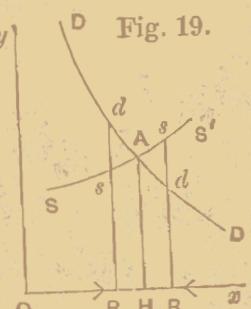
The greatest "improvement" in the productive powers of labour, and the increase of knowledge, experience, and judgment with which it is used, are the chief causes of

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he person holding the string swings his hand. If the swing is rhythmic 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  $R_d$  the price at which it is offered, is greater than  $R_s$  the supply price, the production is profitable, and will be increased.  $R$ , the amount, we 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 exactly equal to  $R_s$ , 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



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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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## Articles

- Reading Keynes at the Zero Lower Bound: The Great Depression,  
the Liquidity Trap, and Unconventional Policy  
*Richard Sutch* 301
- Limits to Arbitrage and Interest Rates: A Debate among Keynes,  
Hawtrey, and Hicks  
*Lucy Brillant* 335
- Spontaneous Growth, Use of Reason, and Constitutional Design:  
Is F. A. Hayek's Social Thought Consistent?  
*Régis Servant* 353
- Eugenics and Socialist Thought in the Progressive Era: The Case  
of James Medbery MacKaye  
*Luca Fiorito and Tiziana Foresti* 377
- Ricardo and Ricardians on the Order of Cultivation  
*Christian Bidard* 389
- Dreams of Order and Freedom: Debating Trade Management  
in Early Seventeenth-Century England  
*Carlos Eduardo Suprinyak* 401
- What Does It Mean? A Comment on the Alleged Anti-Semitism  
of John R. Commons  
*J. Dennis Chasse* 419

## Book Reviews

- David M. Levy and Sandra J. Peart, *Escape from Democracy:  
The Role of Experts and the Public in Economic Policy*  
*Daniel Nientiedt* 433
- David F. Hardwick and Leslie Marsh, eds., *Propriety and Prosperity:  
New Studies on the Philosophy of Adam Smith*  
*Laurie Bréban* 435
- Joseph Persky, *The Political Economy of Progress: John Stuart Mill  
and Modern Radicalism*  
*Laura Valladão de Mattos* 438

Hugh Grant, W. A. Mackintosh: *The Life of a Canadian Economist*  
Robert W. Dimand

441

Matthias Schmelzer, *The Hegemony of Growth: The OECD  
and the Making of the Economic Growth Paradigm*  
James Forder

443

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