

it is as a contribution to it that I have written this paper.'¹

This is not the place for an assessment of the value of Booth's statistical conclusions from his examination into the conditions of London life, nor their influence in correcting current conceptions of fact and tendency, nor the remoter reactions on social and economic theory. An interesting and sufficient account may be found in Mrs. Sidney Webb's autobiography, *My Apprenticeship*. Booth's questions were hardly those of a theoretical or academic economist, but his method of *ad hoc* inquiry to test theories of social betterment were the forerunners of the specific investigation of later days.

II. *Modern Developments in Exposition of Theory.*

Professor Marshall's volume on Principles may be taken as the great example of exposition of economic theory on lines new thirty-six years ago and hardly yet superseded. It is interesting to examine its dependence, not so much upon statistical illustration as upon statistical verification. There are several tables (population, growth of wealth, &c.) used to aid the descriptive portions. When dealing with the nature of the 'demand curve' and 'elasticity', he refers to the study of exact lists of demand prices and to the difficulty of interpreting them, but he gives no examples, and indicates diagrammatically how to observe percentage increases over a period of years, or the rate of growth. He thinks that the statistics of consumption published by governments for many commodities are of very little service in helping inductive study, but elaborates the hint given in Jevons' theory 'that traders could further it greatly by analysing their own accounts'. 'If a sufficient number of tables by different sections of society could be obtained, they would afford the means of estimating indirectly

¹ *Condition and Occupations of the People of the Tower Hamlets, 1886-7*, by Charles Booth, 1887, p. 7.