or collectively could do with them as they liked they could place them at the disposal of whomsoever they pleased and on whatever terms. To other writers, however, and more particularly those of recent date the principles governing distribution appear rather in the nature of actual and inevitable laws which individuals or society may modify to a degree, but the action of which is nevertheless real and irresistable.

This is to be remembered, however, that the fact, if such it be, of definite laws determining the shares in distribution, by no means carries with it the implications that the shares thus determined are just. With what ought to be, Economics is not primarily concerned. It treats only of what is. Given certain conditions it predicts that human conduct being what it is certain results must follow. These results may be and frequently are in anything but accord with our ideas of justice. Economics may show us wherein conditions are at fault and so enable a better