

to observe in the development of German thought in other regions, the theoretical principles which guide these two celebrated historians in their extensive labours were not clearly brought out till after they had been put into practice in the treatment of large historical subjects. Ranke himself never attempted a consistent exposition of his fundamental and guiding ideas. It is only from scattered indications, notably from the Introduction to some of the later of his works, that a younger generation of historians has attempted to fathom and define his historical method.

And so far as Lamprecht is concerned it is only after having published several works on the economic aspects of various historical periods, and after having written the greater part of his 'German History' that he has, in a series of polemical tracts,¹ attempted to

¹ Notably the following: (1) 'Alte und neue Richtungen in der Geschichtswissenschaft' (1896). This contains a dissertation on historical method and a very valuable collection of extracts with the object of defining Ranke's 'Ideenlehre'; (2) 'Die Kulturhistorische Methode' (1900); (3) 'Moderne Geschichtswissenschaft' (5 Lectures, 1905). In the latter Lamprecht tries to define more clearly what he terms the socio-psychological method. He believes in a *Sozialpsyche*, in the soul of society, and he maintains that the laws which govern the life and development of this social soul or mind must be found through the study of the psychology of the individual, referring to the recent development of psychology in Germany under the hands of such thinkers as Wundt, Ebbinghaus, and Lipps. Although the economic

and physical foundations and conditions of national life are extremely important and are emphasised by Lamprecht, he does not fall in with Karl Marx's materialistic treatment of history. He seems to think that at certain moments the psychical influences gain the upper hand and become dominant. His views on this point, though characteristic of his whole position, are not sufficiently clear to afford a concise statement or criticism, but the following passage may give an indication to the reader of this interesting speculation, which, in the Lectures referred to, is especially applied to the psychological development in the history of Germany. "The latent possibilities of the soul in the direction of historical developments form an extensive region—let us say, the area of a circle. Within this circle external stimulants move into the