

masses of the people, whose position has been profoundly altered through the industrial much more than through the political developments of the age. If Germany surprised the whole civilised world by her military successes and her consequent political ascendancy in the year 1870, she has still more surprised the world by her industrial development ever since.

91.
Industrial
develop-
ment.

It is only natural that this industrial development which is still in full progress should exert its influence upon the conception of the national history; that an attempt should be made to understand the economic factors as they made themselves felt in the course of the social and political progress of the nation. Karl Marx had already urged this point of view in a one-sided and extreme conception of historical progress as a conflict of Capital and Labour. In his 'German History' Karl Lamprecht takes up this task more fully and methodically. His work marks an epoch in modern historiography as also in the philosophy of history. From the latter point of view, Lamprecht's position has been appreciated by Paul Barth in his important work on the 'Philosophy of History as Sociology' (1897). So far we have from this author only a critical survey of contemporary labours referring to this subject.

The most important and interesting question to which we hope to receive an answer is correctly defined by Paul Barth: to explain "how the ideas originate which influence the actions of a great personality. Does he draw them out of himself in opposition to his environment, or must they be strongly represented in the environment in order to become firmly located in him? I