

the "Ideal Method." By others it was called the method or Theory of Ideas, inasmuch as "Ideas" were considered to be the elements of Thought, and an analysis of them was expected to lead to a better understanding of the nature of the human mind. There is no doubt that this method of Ideas was suggested to Locke by the practice of the Natural Sciences, where definite things are studied in their isolation, and dissected into their parts.

It was not recognised before Reid pointed it out clearly that Ideas cannot be isolated like natural objects; that their definition is difficult, and that a dissection of them into parts is wellnigh impossible. Thus it becomes necessary to adopt a different point of view, and to start, not with the isolated and naked idea, but with the complexes or clusters in which ideas present themselves to the introspective view, and to recognise that the inner life of the human mind is a "connected totality" of which a section only presents itself to the inner view at any moment of time, this section changing continuously.

To express and fix this method two terms were introduced by two thinkers who have revolutionised the philosophy of the human mind within the English School. William James dilates on the "stream of Thought," and James Ward on the "continuum of Presentations." These terms are suggestive, but we still require another word which shall concisely characterise the modern as distinguished from the earlier form of the introspective method. This term has been used in Continental literature to designate a general aspect which came into view in some of the natural sciences.