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SOME EXAMPLES OF THE USE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS IN SYSTEM-MAKING.

IT is self-evident that one of the foremost services of experimental psychology to psychological theory has been the development of a fuller, more minute and exact analysis of mental phenomena. But, unfortunately, psychologists are as yet far from unanimity as to the methods and results of such an analysis. When different writers adopt different methods, and when occasionally an authority changes his method in the midst of proceedings, it is not surprising that the results, the elements of mental structure and their attributes, should be different. The present paper does not aim to give anything like an exhaustive review of the various methods and results of psychological analysis: its task is a much simpler but perhaps not wholly unprofitable one—a study of the working principles used by three recent system-making psychologists, Wundt, Ebbinghaus, and Münsterberg. These three have been chosen because they are system-makers; not because they have considered the nature and method of psychological analysis more thoroughly and acutely than others. We are not to discuss the various methods that have been suggested for the division and classification of mental phenomena, or the definition of a mental element and its attributes; we are merely to note the methods that have been actually put into operation by some of the men who are endeavoring to give a complete and coherent account of the structure of conscious contents. The three just mentioned are all recent system-makers, and they are near enough to one another in their gen-