THE FUNCTION AND TEST OF DEFINITION
AND METHOD IN PSYCHOLOGY:

AMID all of the discussion current in the
last few years among psychologists the un-
prejudiced outside observer might think
that we were a body of men professing to
develop and teach a science who did not
know what that science was to deal with
and without any idea or with too many
ideas as to the methods that should be fol-
lowed in undertaking to develop our knowl-
edge of the unknown or undetermined sub-
ject-matter. Psychology is at once the
science of mind, the science of conscious-
ness, the science of experience, the science
of behavior. Psychology must be studied
only by careful watching of the processes
of the individual, by the individual him-
self; one who does not proceed in this way
is no psychologist, no matter how valuable
his work may be as physiology or biology
or sociology. On the other hand, we are
assured by just as devoted and well-recog-
nized psychologists that psychology must
deal only with the responses of the indi-
vidual, with what can be seen from the
outside, and that what the first man deals
with really has no existence, or at best is
totally irrelevant to the responses, to
anything that is of scientific interest. If
we are to be taken at our own valuation we
are either altogether unfit to carry on the
task we have set ourselves or entirely un-
prepared for it.

As a matter of fact I presume this comes
from the youth of the science, at least from
taking a definition and formal statements

1 Address of the Vice-president and Chairman of
Section H—Anthropology and Psychology, Phila-
delphia, December 30, 1914.