Bodies in nineteenth century experimental psychology were part of the experiment as flesh, as image, and as machine. Early experiments in psychology relied on introspection or the process of observing the operations of one’s own mind to discover the laws that govern it. The complications of introspection in nineteenth century experimental psychology are part of the post–Kantian problematic where the idea of a stable external reality given to internally organized mental capacities shifts to an internally determined representation of reality based on mental activity. The problem is best illustrated then and now by asking how reality is presented to us. What are the mechanics of perception as representation? This paper looks at the way perception is calibrated through the experiment in nineteenth century physiological psychology. It asks if representations of the self (consciousness) through the experiment change the ontological status of representation qua representation and what that might mean for the status of the representation of mental processes in the experiment.