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http://www.commens.org/bibliography/journal_article/kitcher-philip-2015-pragmatism-and-progress, 20.04.2024.

Type: Article in Journal
Author: Kitcher, Philip
Title: Pragmatism and Progress
Year: 2015
Journal: Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society
Volume: 51
Issue: 4
Pages: 475-494
Keywords: John Dewey, Christopher Hookway, Progress
Abstract: I distinguish two concepts of progress. One of them is teleological: we make progress by decreasing our distance from a goal. The other, I suggest, is pragmatic: progress consists in overcoming some of the problems of the current state. Scientific progress is best thought of as a type of pragmatic progress. Once this is understood, we can recognize that the deepest form of scientific progress does not focus on content alone, but on the ways in which inquiry is adapted to meeting human needs. I connect this concept of progress with themes in Dewey, proposing a Deweyan emendation of some Peircean themes in Chris Hookway's thought.
ISSN: 00091774
DOI: 10.2979/trancharpeirsoc.51.4.06
Language: English