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Abstract: The article discusses the American pragmatic philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce's theory on the association of ideas. The impact that the philosophy of the empiricist David Hume had on Peirce's association of ideas theory, including in regard to resemblance, contiguity and causation, is discussed. The role that attention plays in reducing concepts into their parts, which is referred to by Peirce as abstraction and also as destructive distillation, is presented. An overview of the impact that an individual's interest has on the association of ideas is provided. The relationship between the development of habits and leading an ethical life is discussed.

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