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Type: Manuscript

Author: Peirce, Charles Sanders

Title: The Basis of Pragmaticism

Manuscript MS [R] 284

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Year: 1905 [c.]

Abstract / Robin Catalogue:

Description: A. MS., two notebooks, G-c.1905-5, pp. 1-48 (one notebook); 49-91 (second notebook) .

Selections from first notebook published as 1.294-299, 1.313, and 1.313n; selections from second notebook (pp. 65-69) were published as 1.350-352. Omissions from publication (First Notebook) include the disassociation of pragmatism from some doctrines which have become associated with it; for example, the denial of the Absolute, the affirmation of a Finite God, making action (brute force) the summum bonum. "... I am one of those who say 'We believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible' where the invisible things, I take it, are Love, Beauty, Truth, the Principle of Contradiction, Time, etc. Clearly I can have but the vaguest analogical notion of the Maker of such things, and Pragmatism, I am sure, does not require that all my beliefs should be definite." CSP thinks that Royce in *The World and the Individual* comes closer to exhibiting the meaning of pragmatism than any exposition of it given by a pragmatist other than himself. Another misrepresentation of pragmatism is to assert that pragmatism depreciates science. The principal question for pragmatism must be whether thought has any meaning or purport beyond the simple apprehension of the thought itself. Also omitted is a discussion of the four sects of logic: Leibnizian, Associationist, Aristotelian, and Kantian. The analogy between the indecomposable elements of thought and the atoms of the different elements. Logical terms and valencies. The indecomposable elements of the phaneron. Propositions and assertions. Omissions from publication (Second Notebook) include a discussion of the three modes of mental analysis (dissociation, precision, and discrimination). Application of these modes to primarity, secundarity, and tertianity, e.g., primarity can be prescindend though it cannot be dissociated from secundarity, but secundarity cannot be prescindend but only discriminated from primarity. Finally, the use

of existential graphs to explain logical fallacy.

Language: English