Mathematics merely traces out the consequences of hypotheses without caring whether they correspond to anything real or not. It is purely deductive, and all necessary inference is mathematics, pure or applied. Its hypotheses are suggested by any of the other sciences, but its assumption of them is not a scientific act.

Term: Mathematics


References: Peirce, 1983, p. 70; MS [R] L107:18

Date of Quote: 1904

Editorial Annotations: This quote has been taken from Kenneth Laine Ketner's 1983 reconstruction of Peirce's 'Autobiography'