Term: Abduction

Quote: But in my paper on probable inference in the Johns Hopkins “Studies in Logic”, owing to the excessive weight I at that time placed on formalistic considerations, I fell into the error of attaching a name the synonym I then used for Abduction, to a probable inference which I correctly described, forgetting that according to my own earlier and correct account of it, abduction is not of the number of probable inferences. It is singular that I should have done that, when in the very same paper I mention the existence of the mode of inference which is true abduction. Thus, the only error that paper contains is the designation as abduction of a mode of induction somewhat resembling abduction, which may properly be called abductive induction.


References: HP 2:1031-1032

Date of Quote: 1902

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-carnegie-institution-correspondence