Term: Hypothesis [as a form of reasoning]

Quote: Suppose I enter a room and there find a number of bags, containing different kinds of beans. On the table there is a handful of white beans; and, after some searching, I find one of the bags contains white beans only. I at once infer as a probability, or as a fair guess, that this handful was taken out of that bag. This sort of inference is called *making an hypothesis*. It is the inference of a *case* from a *rule* and a *result*. We have, then–

   DEDUCTION.

Rule.–All the beans from this bag are white.
Case.–These beans are from this bag.
∴*Result*.–These beans are white.

   INDUCTION.

Case.–These beans are from this bag.
Result.–These beans are white.
∴*Rule*.–All the beans from this bag are white

   HYPOTHESIS.

Rule.–All the beans from this bag are white.
Result.–These beans are white.
∴*Case*.–These beans are from this bag.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1878). Deduction, Induction, and Hypothesis. *Popular Science Monthly*, *13*, 470-482.

References: CP 2.623

Date of Quote: 1878

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-deduction-induction-and-hypothesis-6