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.


References: CP 2.623

Date of Quote: 1878

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